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Section Two

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MONDAY 17 JUNE 1996

WEATHER Hot and sunny; showers in Scotland and north of England 40p (III

Manchester bomb blast raises a serious question about the peace process

If it isn't peace, is it war?

By David McKittrick

So what, after spilling the blood of all those shocked, bewildered, terrorised people on the streets of Manchester, does the IRA do for an encore? It is unlikely it will attempt to restart all-out war, though the bomb runs the risk of awakening the sleeping giant of loyalist

Most likely it will either sit back now, or perhaps stage another attack or two in England and then desist for a while. It must figure that intermittent bombing attacks in England, at judicious intervals, concentrate British minds wooderfully.

It appears to believe that it is free to deliver its messages in two different ways: either via Sinn Fein, or in the form of explosive devices. The belief that Britain pays far more attention to the latter is etcbed deep in the republican psyche.

The best guess is that the essage it sought to deliver on Saturday, drawn in blood on the streets of Mancbester, is that it is not abandoning the idea of a eace process and still wants to talk. But it scorns the talks which began in Belfast last week as being much too weighted towards a Unionist agenda, and wants much more farreaching negotiations.

There are several causes for dismay in this. One is that the talks set-up, as negotiated between London and Dublin, represents by any objective criteria a reasonable basis for discussions, with all participants free

ments agreed on an important pobtical role for the former US Senator George Mitchell. This fulfilled one of Sinn Fein's strategic aims, which is to internationalise the problem and involve the United States as closely as possible in the Irish question. A second cause for dismay is



The scene of devestation in central Manchester yesterday which shows that unit a pillar-box resisted the force of Saturday's blast

mg of bombs which mint Man cunians. One unfortunate violence paid off. precedent which may well have fact that the Government, in the aftermath of February's Docklands bombing, finally did what republicans demanded and set a date for the opening of talks.

In the early 1980s the reencouraged this belief was the publicans developed the "Arworking on the theory of making advances through a carefully calculated hlend of violence and politics. The IRA may now In vain has the Government debe reverting to this. But Sinn the apparent IRA belief that it nied that the bomb produced Fein, the other side of the re-

since past. During the 1994-96 ceasefire Sinn Fein was highly successful in winning friends and influencing people, but all its new relationships were posited on the basis that the war was over. It was striking, in the wake of the Docklands bomb, to hear previously supportive American politicians, and

The Arndale Centre bomb in flicted much damage on Sinn Fein, moving it back towards its old pariah status. The terms for its entry into political talks may well be made tougher. Arms decommissioning will move even further up the agenda.

In other words the bomb was not a complement to Sinn celebrities, say they would give Fein's political efforts but a se-

can effect change to such the date: rightly or wrongly, the arrangements through the place widespread assumption in day of that dual strategy is long was restored.

on more help until the cessation also sown much confusion in the anyone who believes there is no republican movement as a difference between them. The

> plan. Any other organisation would at this point be splitting into two parts, bawks and doves. But there is an almost mystical relationship linking Sinn

whole, where supporters were

this weekend having trouble

working out the IRA's game

Fein and the IRA: anyone who thinks there is no connection be-

ry, common experience, shared suffering and close family ties. Both the militarists and the politicos, and the 40 shades inbetween, are keenly aware that separation could bring a bitter republican cause for a genera-

relationship is based on histo-

They tried to kill me and

page 3 Profile: George Mitchell page 14 A city's resolve page 15

and argument is therefore more likely than an outright split. In any event, a split in which Adams led part of the movement into politics is highly unlikely to enhance the prospects of eventual peace. Figures and factions have walked away from the IRA periodically since the days of Eamon de Valera. Sometimes these defections caused momentary damage, but in each case the militaristic core left behind retained the capacity for violence.

The project pursued by Adams in recent years is an unprecedented one, in that it has been aimed at bringing the republican movement en bloc into politics. The prize was to include veryone, this time leaving no violent rump with the potential to start the killing all over again, His departure oow would leave freestanding IRA held back by fewer constraints. He would become just another despised mainstream politician with no influence over the IRA: and the ogic of that is more bombs.

But even assuming there is to be no split, there must now be period of outworking within the republican movement, since the Manchester bomb shows it to be an entity without a clear policy. The IRA is in charge and do the trick. Adams has a peace process strategy and has strong support among the wider movement, but evidently does not have his hands on the levers of power. Ahead lies a defining period, in which the military elite conflict which could set back the and the advocates of the peace process hothy dispute the future tion. A period of internal debate direction of their movement.

Yeltsin on the edge after low turn-out

Boris Yeitsin appeared to be pushing ahead in the Russian election despite a flurry of panic amongst his advisers over signs of a dissappointingly low turn-out. According to an exit poll by

CNN, the Russian leader won 35 per cent of the vote, a commanding six-point lead over his Communist rival Gennady Zyuganov. Although figures are not yet confirmed the poll also showed a astonishing result by the popular General Alexander Lebed, an ally of the Kremlin's, whom the poll placed at 15 per cent. These initial figures will give heart to the President's campaign team, who issued a flurry of last-minute appeals to get the voters out.

From the exit poll it ap-

peared that Grigory Yavlinsky had won 9 per-cent and Vladimir Zhinnovsky 7 per cent, with other candidates

gaining 4 per cent.

As the day unfolded, evidence had mounted that many Russians preferred to stay in the countryside or to watch the allimportant Euro 96 football match between Germany and Russia. Matters were not helped from Mr Yeltsin's view-point, by a bumiliating three-nil defeat, which one Russian an-alyst said could "seriously de-

If neither Mr Yeltsin oor Mr Zyuganov gains an overall majority, the attention of both sides - and the world - will switch to the run-off in July. Mr Zyuganov, 51, has the advantage of loyal, active support, but



Deligited democrat: Boris Yeltsin and his wife Naina after voting in Moscow yesterday Photograph: Alexander Natruskin/Reuter

win the 50 per cent needed to month would be regarded with get into the Kremlin. Although he presents himself

horror in the West, not least because his close aides include as a moderate progressive notorious hardliners and antimany analysts doubt whether he more nationalist than Commu-can expand this sufficiently to nist - his ultimate victory next were rumblings from Washing-

further aid to Russia if the course of free-market reforms were not

The President's campaign team yesterday made no effort to cooceal their disappoint-ment over the turn-out, which seemed likely to be less than the 75 per cent they bad hoped for. A low turn-out is considered to favour the Communist-nationalist coalition of Mr Zyuganov, who tend to vote come what may. Mr Yeltsin's support, whipped up from miserable ratings by a bombardment of publicity and promises of money, is much more like a soufflé

liable to collapse without If last night's early figures are borne out by events, Mr Yeltsin may have to bear some blame for this. His declaration last week

ton that the West would block have led some of his less enthusiastic supporters not to bother to turn out. Others may have chosen to vote for third-party candidates whom they prefer - such

as General Lebed. Such was the concern in the President's camp that the Prime Minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, yesterday afternoon issued a statement to the official ltar-fass news agency, appealing for voters to go to the polling booths. Several hours later this was followed by a press conference at Mr Yeltsin's campaign headquarters at which several top artists - including the renowned ballerina Yekaterina Maximova - begged their countrymen to vote, in words that, at times, made it blatantly clear that they were appealing on behalf of the Kremlin.

Further reports, pages 10

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Travellers

QUICKLY

Union 'fat cats' The executive of Britain's biggest craft union bave quietly awarded themselves massive severance packages potentially worth up to £500,000 each, the *Indepen-*Page 4 dent has learned.

Grammar lessons

Children are learning grammar through foreign languages but not through their own, according to research published

Croatia in last eight Croatia secured a place in the Euro 96 quarter-finals with a 3-0 win over Denmark in Sheffield, while Germany beat Russia, also 3-0, in Manchester, with two goals from Jürgen Klinsmann. Sports Section

Found: Joan of Arc's suit of armour

MARY DEJEVSKY

She was burnt at the stake in 1431. But, it is oow claimed, her working wardrobe lives on. A Paris antiques dealet believes he has found the suit of armour in which Joan of Arc fought ber epic battles, before the English bought ber from the Burgunwitch.

had merely acquired a set of old armour in unusually good condition. But the armour was also unusual in being very small. When Mr de Souzy's 14-year-old daughter was allowed to try

subsequeotly near Paris. it on, it fitted ber perfectly. But Mr. de Souzy says that it mour was made for a child or an. therefore, perhaps, unsellable.

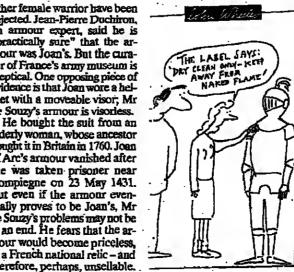
was only when his wife joked that their daughter looked just like Joao of Arc that the possibility occurred to him that it might have been made for the Maid of Orleans.

He then embarked months of detective work which revealed striking coincidences which might support the claims of authenticity. Acdians and had ber burnt as a cording to experts cited by when Pierre de Souzy the Journal du Dimanche, the bought the suit, he thought he metal has been dated to the 15th

> Marks on the armour correspond to injuries Joan is known to bave suffered during the siege of Orleans in 1429 and The possibilities that the ar-

other female warrior bave been rejected. Jean-Pierre Duchiron. an armour expert, said he is "practically sure" that the armour was Joan's. But the curator of France's army museum is sceptical. One opposing piece of evidence is that Joan wore a helmet with a moveable visor, Mr de Souzy's armour is visorless.

elderly woman, whose ancestor bought it in Britain in 1760. Joan of Arc's armour vanished after she was taken prisoner near Compiegne on 23 May 1431. But even if the armour eventually proves to be Joan's, Mr de Souzy's problems may not be at an end. He fears that the armour would become priceless, as a French national relic - and



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John Major

"This explosion looks like the work of the IRA. It is the work of a few fanatics and ... causes absolute revulsion in Ireland as it does here."



Gerry Adams

"This is a time for everyone committed to the objective of lasting peace in Ireland to dig deep and apply ourselves with greater determination to restore the peace process."



John Bruton

"This is a slap in the face to people who've been trying, against perhaps their better instincts, to give Sinn Fein a chance to show that they could persuade the IRA to reinstate the ceasefire."



John Hume

"Acts of this nature create terrible suffering for the victims and shock for everyone."



The Rev lan Paisley

"This is a devilish action ... If that is the attitude of the people who want to be at the democratic negotiating table, I would say they have no place at that table."



David Trimble

Mr Adams and Mr McGuin-ness were members of Sinn Fein/IRA, he said, and that while they are part of that organisation they have to ac-cept responsibility for what their organisation does.

London and Dublin unite against Sinn Fein

COLIN BROWN and DAVID MCKITTRICK

The Irish and British Governments moved quickly in the wake of the Manchester bomb to avoid any attempt by Sinn Fein to split the two governments over their approach to a ceasefire declaration.

They both made it clear the bombing had made it more difficult for Sinn Fein to be

opinion came yesterday from the Taoiseach, John Bruton, litical process." who criticised Sinn Fein for being "struck mute" after the bombing, and for refusing to condemn the recent killing of Garda detective in Limerick.

Mr Bruton said: "What is needed now is an uncondition-There can be no going back this time, no looking back over the shoulder to the option of confusion and sow dissent

Andrew Hunter, the chair-

man of the Tory backbench Northern Ireland committee, said the bombing made Sinn Fein's exclusion from the talks "absolute" for the forseeable future. "I would not be at all sural and irrevocable ceasefire. prised if there was not some ceasefire statement during the next few days that would throw

urday and the announcement of a ceasefire on Moaday and people allowed back into talks on Tuesday. The real world isn't like that." Some Tory MPs warned that the IRA should begin decom-

Secretary, warned: "No one is going to be taken in. You can't

have a situation in which there's

a bomh in Manchester on Sat-

tary Ulster Volunteer Force, said he believed the loyalist ceasefires would hold.

The Irish Government will tomorrow review its continuing

Coded warnings received at four locations, including Granada TV station, saying bomb would

wake of the bombing and the killing of the Garda special branch officer in Adare. It is unlikely that the Irish Government will break off contact with Sinn

Bruton and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, but the murder of the Garda officer has

The Manchester bomb: where the devastaion struck

Police verify warning and decida to evacuate city

centre (area Inside the

onlyhope for peace now is that the IRAs bombing of Manbomhing may mean the lead-ership of the IRA has split. The Adare killing was car-

we don't know who we are dealing with." Mr Spring said on BBC's Breakfast with Frost.

trayed" by the tRA.
David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, said the attack meant his party would keep demands for an IRA weapons surrender as top of their agenda in

dmitted to talks. violence if politics doesn't go Evidence of a hardening of their way. This time they must Michael Howard, the Home

JAMES CUSICK

Police believe the bomb in Manchester may be the largest yet planted by the IRA in Britain.

Anti-terrorist officers from London and forensic scientists were yesterday sifting through the wreckage left by the blast. Judging by the distance that some of the debris travelled, officers think the bomh was at least as large as the device which devastated the South

even bigger.
Last night police said the van used in the bombing had been spotted in Peterborough on Friday afternoon.

Crucial to their investiga-tion is the belief that somewhere among the hours of closed-circuit video tapes gathered by cameras in the area is photographic evidence of who was driving the white and orange Ford Cargo van. Police evaluating the security tapes last night ap-pealed to husiness premises with cameras covering arterial routes into Greater Manchester to keep tapes and contact them. Although police released a photograph of the van - reg-istration C214 ACL, parked in Corporation Street, where it finally exploded - it is still not known at what precise time the vehicle was parked.

The orange cab of the sevenand-a-half-ton vehicle was marked with the logo Jack Roberts Transport. Greater Manchester Police confirmed vesterday that the vehicle had

The first full picture of what lies before the authorities in their attempt to return Manchester city centre back to normal hegan to emerge vesterday.

Journalists were allowed the first access to the site of the explosion. Accompanying the media was the Greater Manchester

over the top of buildings."
Walking along what looked like a carpet of broken glass and dehris from shattered build-

Quay area of London's Dock- ter bomb was "as large as any-For those who witnessed the

RA's biggest bombs

Bridge - 30th semtex, failed to explode Docklands - 2,240lh two people April 1993 - Bishopsgate 2,240th of fertiliser, killed

Exchange - 100h of fertiliser, detonated by a small quantity of semtex, November 1990 -Annaghmartin, Co Fermanagh - 3,500lb fertiliser, failed to explode November 1990 - Stoke Vewington - 2,000lb

on South Quay, the Manchester blast appeared to have similar consequences: buildings torn to shreds as though made of papier maché instead of concrete; water pouring out of twisted structures as though they had been crushed; holes pockmarked over building facades as though teams of demolition men had been trying to knock them down. Mr Phillips described the at-

Assistant Chief Constable, Colin Phillips, who said: "It was a miracle that no one was killed. tack as the work of "absolute-in Phillips, who said: "It was a miracle that no one was killed. Greater Manchester's senior officers called in to belp survey urday that he was to be awarded the Queen's Police Medal in the Birthday Honours List. Of the explosion he said: "This has taken away from the award. I came into work delighted; now

The initial cordon was not enough. After the blast, glass was "raining" on the fleeing and screaming civilians as far as half a mile around the bomb's epi-One intelligence source said

poration Street

continuing to examine who may bave stolen or rented the van, who were its drivers and whether the bomb was the work of an active IRA cell in northwest England or whether the bombers had specifically targeted Manchester on the day the Queen's official birthday celebrations took place in London. missioning weapons before Sinn Fein is admitted, a view not shared by the governments.

Ford van containing bomb receives parking ticket outside the

be watching for any sign of pos-sible loyalist retaliation, al-though David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist party, which is close to the paramili-

of the IRA, but British minis-

ters said it was a "last resort".

The security forces will also

There were Tory calls for in-

will break off contact with sim.
Fein, according to highly placed
Irish sources, but the review
could prove historic.
Both acts by the IRA were
condemned yesterday by Mr

shocked Dublin. Mr Spring said the killing and the Manchester

chester will alienate the Nationalists who voted for Sinn ried out by a breakaway group Fein in the Northern Ireland elections, Mr Bruton from the IRA. That leaves us facing a new difficulty. We al-ways felt we were dealing with said the voters had been "beways left we were the sale and earlier people who were trying to bring the IRA into democratic politics. The situation could be very different, that

British ministers believe the

Evacuation completed within an hour. Police

Corporation St

talks that enter their second week in Belfast today.

examining van with remote control 'robol'

Bomb disposal experts

when bomh delonates

Device was 'as big as anything to hit mainland Britain'

The force of the blast seems to have gone round corners and

ings, Mr Phillips added: "This is all absolutely devastating and it is a great tragedy to see Man-chester like this."

He reinforced the opinion that the scale of the Manches-

April 1996 - Hammersmith

February 1996 - London's fertiliser and semtex, killed April 1992 - Baltic

fertiliser, failed to explode

devastation of the IRA's attack

the scene, Chief Supt Peter Harris, received news on Satit bas faded into significant .. it is just horrendous. From descriptions by senior

officers and from the evidence the scale of the Manchester bomb bas clearly astonished experienced police officers. One described it as "a whirlwind of devastation".

The Deputy Chief Constable, Malcolm Cairns, effectively acknowledged this, when he said the initial safety cordon had only been a few hundred yards around the Arndale, the location given in the four telephoned warnings which had been received in both Northern Ireland and on the mainland.

yesterday that once initial forensic examination of the city cen-

tre was completed and the search for potential evidence exhausted, the police hunt would then prioritise the van's movements prior to its arrival in Cor-Investigations are, however,

Security stepped up as fears grow over attacks

Security was stepped up around senior Conservative ministers and backbenchers before the Manchester bomb blast, following intelligence reports that the IRA might be planning a re-newed attack on the mainland.

One prominent Conservative backbencher told The Independent that the authorities believed the IRA could be planning a political assassination, after the refusal of the British and Westminster Governments to admit Sinn Fein leaders to the

IRA man blown up by his own bomb on a London bus.

cross-party talks. The security alert was tightened around some key targets whose names were discovered in the south London flat occupied by Edmund O'Brien, the

The intelligence services in Northern Ireland have issued warnings about the general lev-

tracted a parking ticket two hours before it exploded, will raise questions again about the difficulty of cracking the cell net-

work of the IRA network. Ministers dismissed as "speculation" reports that there were three IRA active service units operating on the mainland, two in London and one touring the rest of the country.

But one senior minister said it had become clear that the IRA were improving their arsenal during the ceasefire when it was discovered that they had enhanced their mortar capability. Make-shift mortars were used in the attack on Downing Street. Now, the IRA are believed to possess mortars that can throw devices further and with greater accuracy.

The Manchester bombing was the seventh attack in mainland Britain since the ending of the ceasefire. The attempt in el of the threat from the IRA. April to blow up Hammer-But the failure to intercept the smith Bridge with the biggest

nator did not ignite.

Northern Ireland ministers met informally at Westminster last Thursday to review progress in the cross-party talks. It was agreed that in spite of the rows, including the controversy over former US Senator George Mitchell chairing the key hearings, the talks were on track. The Mitchell report, calling

for "mutual" decommissioning, will be used to address the ue of Loyalist paramilitary weapons, in the absence of Sinn Fein at the negotiating table. "There will not be a bonfire of weapons unless there is a double bonfire, with the IRA's weapons there too," said one Tory source.

Ministers reputedly had been ready to admit Sinn Fein to the talks had the IRA announced another ceasefire. But all the manoeuvring, some observers say, has been rendered academie by the Manchester bomb.

Talks deal exposes republican tension

Tensions within Sinn Fein have prompted a call for a special conference over the party leadership's acceptance of the Mitchell principles.

Concern at the move among

sections of the republican movement is believed to be fuelled by fears that it could lead to acceptance of an internal settlement in Northern Ireland. The principles require acceptance of verified disarmament, renouncing the use of

force, and agreeing to abide by any agreement reached in allparty negotiations. Sinn Fein headquarters has denied that the conference move, led by Cork members, A Sinn Fein leadership beraided a challenge to the leadership of Gerry Adams.

One newspaper claimed there had been threats of resignations over the issue from both long-standing Sinn Fein activists and from "middle-ranking" IRA members.

The Cork anger was apparently driven by the belief that Sinn Fein had initially declined to endorse the Mitchell princi-

ples when published in January. It is understood the Cork members cite the party's submission to the Mitchell decommissioning body which insisted Sinn Fein would reject any British pre-conditions to allparty talks.

James McBarron. spokesman for the Cork Sinn Fein constituency organisation, declined to elaborate on the reasons for the conference move. The Sinn Fein constitution allows for an extraordinary conference if the move has the support of one third of the

source said vesterday was doubtful of the chances of the Cork letter raising support required. She suggested the move was not representative of the party's mainstream thinking, but did not rule out further "in-ternal meetings".

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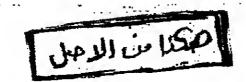
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معددا من الاعل

THE MANCHESTER BOMBING

They are crazy... they tried to kill me and my baby'

MICHAEL STREETER

Danie Trimble

ist Sinn Fei

A heavily pregnant woman described yesterday how she was knocked off her feet by the Manchester bomb as she was shopping for her new baby. Melanie Russell, 23, was

close to tears as she said: "They tried to kill me and they tried to kill my haby. I heard it go off and I felt a hlast. It knocked me flying and I blanked out and came round 45 minutes later in the amhulance." She added: "I was more worried about the baby than anything - I could not feel her moving.

But although doctors at the Manchester Royal Infirmary considered carrying out an emergency Caesarean operation, extensive tests shows that the unborn child was not harmed. Yesterday Ms Russell. who spent the night in St Mary's Hospital, was allowed to return to her home in Heywood. Rochdale. The child is due in about two weeks.

Ms Russell, who had been on a shopping trip with her mother. Lynda, described the terrorists as "crazy and pathetic".
"Innocent people have got

Her mother, who said that they had both been knocked

glass, praised two shop workers who had taken care of her unconscious daughter while the amhulance took 45 minutes to get through police cordons. But she questioned how she and her daughter were allowed to be

in an area so close to the hlast. She said they had been warned not to go near the Arndale Centre and had just come out of a shop near Oldham Street when the explosion occurred. "We were about two to three blocks from the lorry. I'm annoyed that we were allowed to be as close as that."

Describing the moment the bomb went off she said: "I heard the sound of glass smash-ing and people screaming." Meanwhile, a consultant sur-

geon at the North Manchester General Hospital said that one of the victims had received some of the worst facial injuries he had seen in 19 years. Mr Peter White said the 42-year-old woman needed up to 300 stitches after a piece of glass had sliced into her forehead "like a knife through butter". Mr White said she had had

seven hours of emergency surgery which had been like

sheltered them from flying days when car passengers were thrown through windscreens. He told a press conference yesterday: "Since I have been at

North Manchester it is one of the most severe facial lacerations I have encountered." He said the woman, of Lancashire, would be scarred for life. She also lost four teeth, suffered cuts to her lips, arms and right leg and an injury to her right eye-though the sight was not af-fected. Surgeons removed 30 slivers of glass from her body. Mr White said the woman,

who was married, would probably receive counselling to cope with her disfigurment, which could masked by surgery and make-up but not removed.

"Relationships and talking to people are going to be difficult for her. She will need a lot of support," he said, adding that he did not feel she was aware of the full impact of what had happened.

Another woman, 24, needed a three-hour operation after flying glass sliced open her forehead. Mr White said both patients were lucky to be alive and he was surprised there were no deaths given the scale of the explosion. Out of 79 people admitted on Saturday to the North Manchester General just 8 were detained yesterday.



Safe: Melanie Russell, whose baby is due in two weeks. In hospital with her boyfriend, Michael Kilpatrick, yesterday

was in the area for another engagement, visited staff and the injured at the hospital vesterday think they are in the middle of a nightmare and are going to and praised the courage of all those involved. She told an impromptu press conference: "horrid" day for the North, the pected had happened, she said.

The Duchess of Kent, who as in the area for another enare obviously frightened and a nightmare and are going to wake up from it."

sionalism of all the emergency services involved. Those in-jured in the bomb had either been out shopping or carrying Describing Saturday as a out their work when the unex-

McGill, 23, was discharged from the same hospital. She had receiving minnr cuts to her legs. Ms McGill, who was no a

first. Then us. It's all wrong."

Another vietim, Fionna then a shower of glass came down simultaneously. People were running away and everypeople [who did this] may be

City shows its defiance by throwing Euro 96 party

JAMES CUSICK, MICHAEL STREETER and JOJO MOYES

The doors of Manchester's Anglican Cathedral, 200 yards ported no arrests before the from the scene the IRA bomh, were closed yesterday for the first time since the Blitz. And the city's normally hustling mark of the competition. commercial centre was silent as forensic squads probed the remains of the destruction.

But Manchester showed its defiance by throwing its latest Euro 96 football party. Fans from Germany, Russia, Britain

into the Old Trafford stadium in sweltering sunshine. Shirts from clubs around the world were in evidence, and police rematch and a typically good-natured and carefree atmosphere which has become the hall-

Visitors were undeterred by the terrorist menace, determined that nothing would interfere with their enjoyment of the foothall fiesta. Joachim Braun, from Monheim, Germany, said: "I had to phone my

very frightened and anxious when she heard about the bomb. But it is good to be here. I love football and I wouldn't let something like that stop me coming here."

Clemens Voegele and Bernhard Fritz, from Konstanz, southern Germany, arrived in Manchester today hours before the game at the start of a 10-day visit to the champi-onship. "We heard about the bomh before we left home. Our family did not want us to come but we were not scared,"

security ring thrown up by police was still in force, with officers turning away eurious pedestrians. The inner "sterile" area, which was closest to the hlast, will not reopen until early next week, police said.

The City Council set up a desk to advise shopkeepers on clearing up and reopening. They issued a number - 0161-234-1748 - and told keyholders to report to the Lloyd Street entrance of Manchester Town Hall in Albert Square.

In the Town Hall in chambers

Away from the grounds, the and lobbies normally husy running the city, there was instead matter of returning to normal life. There were two groups: those worried about their businesses and those worried about their homes. Most of the talk in the aftermath of the attack has been about the destruction of the city centre's shops and offices. However, there is a large residential population worried that the IRA has destroyed not just the hopes of peace in Northern treland but the homes

of innocent people. Although the Arndale is primarily a retail complex, on its when, if ever, they will be alroof there are 60 flats and a lowed home. Michael Butterworth said: large area of rooftop landscaped gardens. On Saturday "We really enjoy living there and morning helicopters with loud we hope we will be allowed to hailers warned residents of the go back. It's the nicest place I've ever lived - the gardens are wonderful and it's special." His flats to evacuate their homes im-

mediately. Father and son Michael and Damon Butterteenage son was mainly conworth left their house within cerned for his two cats, Sony and Marmalade. "The authorities 20 minutes". They spent Saturday night at hotel and con-ference facilities belonging to don't seen to care; they think it's just two cats but if I'm not allowed to go back soon, they'll be dead. They're dealing with the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Techall the tourists and husinesses nology. Last night they were

ings throughout the city in an attempt to clear them for re-occupation and allow husinesses hack in.

Meanwhile, Russian and German visitors in the city for the Euro of championship, unable to return to their cordoned-off hotel since Saturday afternoon, were pragmatic.

Boris Khousainov from Siberia, sitting in front of a beer advert urging "drink for Eng-land" said: "England is a good country - this (the bomh) is a



Insurers' bill may top £200m and push up 'pool' premiums

NIC CICUTTI

Insurers will face claims of up to £200m to help pay for the damage inflicted by the bomb hlast, a leading insurance assessor claimed vesterday. Up to one-third of shops and

offices affected by the explosion may receive only limited comsation because they did not have the insurance cover needed in the event of terrorist attack. Meanwhile, husinesses

throughout Britain may he called on to pay a levy of at least £100m in extra insurance premiums to Pool Re, the Government-backed re-insurer set up in the aftermath of the 1992 Baltic Exchange bombing in the City of London.

Alan James, associate director of Harris Claims Group, a firm of assessors, said: "The ef-Meet could be absolutely devastating. It could be disastrous for the small-business community. It may indeed force some out

Some of those worst affected by damage and loss of husiness may never re-open, while hundreds of jobs may be lost as

shopkeepers with cover "miti-gate their losses".

Details of the heavy costs to be home by Britain's businesses came as police investigators and insurance assessors both began their separate tasks of sifting through the rubble of Saturday's explosion near the Arndale Centre, Manchester's shopping mall.

More than 400 businesses could be affected in a half-mile radius of the city centre, while many more outside that area suffered smashed windows and damaged fittings.

Alan Harris, chief executive

of Harris Claims Group, said 20 of his staff were now in Manchester to assess the damage. "It is hard to say exactly how much the cost will come to, but it may amount to £100m for rebuilding costs and for fixtures and fittings," he said. "Business interruption may come to that

"You have to remember that a lot of shops, botels, clubs and restaurants had been geared up for the Euro 96 games at Old

amount again.

where damage is being estimated at £150m, this time it is mainly shops that have been

"If you are dealing with offices, it is possible to move staff into new premises which prevents too much interruption. With shops, that is not so easy," Mr Harris said.

He added that serious problems could arise where a husiness decided in the aftermath of the IRA's ceasefire in August 1994 that special terrorism insurance was no longer needed.

The extra premiums are col-lected by all UK insurers and passed on to Pool Re, which then meets claims against it. Without this cover, which can costs thousands of pounds, any compensation for a terrorist attack is limited to a maximum £100,000 each for structural damage, replacing stock and husiness interruption. Up to a third of the damage caused in the Docklands blast was not reclaimable because the owners of buildings had not paid into

insurers demand that even blast, at Docklands in London, Re cover, it may not be possible to hold on to your staff because you have a duty to the insurer to 'mitigate your losses',' Mr Harris said. "A restauran owner could argue that it is vital to keep paying a chef's wages because he is an essential employee. But he may not be able

to keep the waiters." Tony Baker, deputy director general at the Association of British Insurers, the industry's trade body, said many thou-sands of businesses insured through Pool Re will also face

After the IRA ceasefire, Pool Re agreed to charge only 60 per cent of annual premiums unless terrorist-inspired reached more than £75m a year. Although the levy has not yet been announced, the Isle of Dogs hlast alone caused more than that amount of damage: Saturday's explosion is certain to lead insurers to demand the remaining 40 per cent from their clients, Mr Baker said,

One insurance source said that while the exact figure is not known "for security reasons", it

"You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

there again, awaiting news of

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Last leg: Cyclists on the South Downs yesterday in the 21st London to Brighton Blke Ride organised by the British Heart Foundation

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Union officials grab £500,000 'golden goodbye'

BARRIE CLEMENT Labour Editor

The ruling executive of Britain's biggest eraft union have quietly awarded themselves nassive severance packages potentially worth up to £500,000 each, the Independent has learned.

In a decision so far hidden from its 700,000 members. executive councillors of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union have decided they can retire 10 years early on the equivalent of full pay. On leaving the union they will also be paid a lump sum of as much s £50,000 and allowed to keep their Rover and BMW cars worth £20,000-plus.

At 65 the former officials of the AEEU, one of the largest and most loyal Labour Party affiliates, will be allowed to draw a full pension. Given average life expectancy of around 73, the "hampers", as they are known in the executive's argot, could be worth up to £500,000. The 10 years on full pay will be made up of payments from the pension fund topped up hy the union's general account.

The revelation will be pounced on by the Tory high command as another example of Labour hypocrisy in the wake of union complaints over boardroom "fat cats".

While executive members are on relatively modest salaries of between £40,000 and £45,000 a year - in comparison with top company directors - the deal giving 10 years' full pay is unheard of for unions and high-ly unusual even among the most cosseted boardrooms. The Government-backed Greenbury committee on directors' figures in the organisation have remuneration recommended two years as a maximum.

One engineering union source said that the AEEU package amounted to a "ripoff". He said: "If these are hampers, we are talking Fortnum and Mason rather than Tesco picuie baskets."

Previous attempts by outsiders at calculating the value of the packages have woefully underestimated their worth. The news will prompt a furious response from members,

some of whom have already registered their dissatisfaction over the way the union is run. The executive introduced the scheme in the wake of the

merger which created the AEEU out of the old enginecring and electrical unions. It was decided initially that the two executive councils with 11 members each would amalamate to form a 22-strong body. It was envisaged that the new group would slim down to nine after regional elections under the auspices of the new merged organisation.

The leadership hit on the "golden goodbye" idea so that memhers of the old executives could be eased out in comfort. The only present council member who is "unbampered", is Davey Hall, the president who took up his post in January some two years after the early

retirement package was agreed. Mr Hall, a former shipyard electrician, said yesterday. The executive council is aware of my position and my disagreement with the proposed method of reducing the numbers." Supporters of the president claim that other prominent

sought to ostracise him.

Some senior AEEU figures have already left the union since the introduction of the severance terms: Sir Gavin Laird. the former general secretary. and other engineering repre-sentatives, Cliff Dawber and Tom MacLean Former members of the electricians' union executive who have gone under the scheme are Pat O'Hanlon, Harry Hughes and Lew Britz. All of them were 60 or older so were unable to avail themselves of the full 10 years on full pay. hut they received packages which could have been worth up to £250,000. Younger colleagues

ceive twice as much. Ken Jackson, who took over as general secretary last year, said Jimmy Airlie, who represents Scotland, and Bill Morgan of the Midlands, intend to go within the next 12 months when they are 60. Last week the executive blocked the election of Mr Airlie's replacement on the grounds that they were still trying to cut numbers to nine, although critics point out that this will leave the union with no

who opt to retire stand to re-

Scottish executive members. Mr Jackson said that details would be published soon in the annual report. The idea was to reduce the executive before holding fresh elections. There was no intention to keep the

arrangement quiet. "Details are going to be published as soon as the auditor has approved the annual report," he said. Mr Jackson added that the union would save "millions of pounds" on office costs and expenses by reducing the 22-



Heseltine launches new attack on Euro-sceptics

Chief Political Correspondent

Michael Heseltine yesterday ignored John Major's comint that he had a "bellyful" of bickering over Europe, by mounting a fresh attack on the Euro-sceptics. And he accused Baroness Thatcher of trying to

rewrite history.
Mr Major will this week celehrate the first anniversary of his decision to resign office and fight a leadership battle., but there was no sign of a let-up in the backstabbing. The Deputy Prime Minister attacked Baroness Thatcher for funding Bill Cash's Euro-sceptic think tank after Mr Major ordered it not to accept money from Sir James Goldsmith, whose Referendum Party is fielding candidates against the

Tories. He said Baroness Thatcherhad taken Britain deeper into Europe by signing the Single European Act, creating the single market. "You cannot re-write history."

Mr Heseltine - in a clear sign that the pro-European wing of the Tory Party is determined to speak out - also fired a warning shot at Tory Euro-sceptics, such as Norman Lamont, the former chancellor, for "uibbling at the fringes" of moves to take Britain out of Europe.

They were damaging the Government and increasing the chances of Labour winning power. Mr Heseltine said on the BBC Breakfast with Frost pro-

Another pro-European, the former foreign minister Tristan Garel-Jones MP, criticised Mr Cash as a "pygmy"

colm Rifkind, meanwhile warned Britain's EU partners that the summit in Florence on Friday will be dominated by Britam's policy of non-cooperation if no deal is reached today over the beef crisis.

Mr Rifkind said: "If the beef issue is not resolved before next Friday, it quite properly and inevitably will dominate the

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, will tell German leaders today that Labour will fight the forthcoming election as a pro-European party. He said in a series of German media interviews that Britain should play a constructive role "at the cen-tre of Europe" and he attacked the anti-German propaganda over the beef war as "wrong and unhelpful".

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

There of a panic by users of the Pill were triggered instructional leaked report of a study which is said to suggest that women face a small but increased risk of briggs that women face a small but increased risk of suggest that women face a small but increased risk of breast cancer for no to 10 years after they stop taking oral contraceptives, although other research has shown it to protect against some forms of cancer and heart disease. The research has be published in the Lancet medical journal. follows a four year study.

The chief encountrie of the Family Planning Association, Anne Weyman, said yesterday that there was no reason to panis. The study shows a very small additional risk [of breast cancer] for younger women which increases with

breast cancer; for younger women which increases with age. These raiss have to be balanced with the Pill's protection against other cancers, such as ovorian and endometrial cencer." A spokeswoman for the Imperial Cancer Research Find, which was involved in the research, said no details of the study—a leaked copy of which was reported in the Sun-

do Times - would be given before today.

Last October the Government wirned 1.5 million women to switch to different Pills because of tisks of blood closs in the legs associated with seven brands. In April, it emerged that there was a large increase in requests for abortions as women stopped taking the Pill following the October scare. The Family Planning Association said women should discuss any fears with their GP or a family planning elimic.

Compulsory rescue insurance for climbers and walk-ters in the British bills was ruled out at the weekend hy an all-party committee of MPs which was unable to find a single authoritative body advocating such a move.

Prompted by media coverage of a succession of accidents in the Highlands, the Scottish Atlants Committee conducted an inquiry mu the ability of the volunteer rescue teams to cope and the cost to the taxpayer. Mountaineers lobbied

hard against any change to the system and any restriction on the traditional freedoms of their sport, and even the Association of British insurers warned of difficulties of chimeement and defining a mountain rescue.

The MPs said they "totally reject the idea". An attempt by Tory MP Bill Walker to keep open the possibility of insurance at a future date was rejected by six voices to one. More than half a million mountainness visit the Highlands area in a year, primoring 1150m into the economy and area in a year, pumping £150m into the economy and securing hearly £160 jobs. The number of accidents has actually fatten pro rate. Stephen Goodsin

A powerful alliance of conservationists and local authorities has faunched an offensive against the Gov ernment's plans to abolish special controls over advertisements in fural erest More than balf of Britain's countryside is currently profested from the boardings because it is designated as an "Area of Special Control of Advertisements", where poster hospidings are banned and controls over other types of advertisements, such as Illuminated cries, are more strict than elsewhere. In a letter to Robert Jones, minister for construction, planning and energy efficiency, published mylay, the campaigners arge The Government not only to drop its current proposits, but in launch a fresh review of controls to ensure they will safeguard both town and country from intrusive advertising. Clare Garner.

Sec offenders could be barned from schools vicinity when children were coming out, and from public swimming baths under tougher laws to be announced this week by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, Mr Howard said yesterday on BBCI's On the Record programme that restrictions on the unovenents of sea offenders could be added to supervision orders as part of the measures to be revealed by the Government during a "law and order" week. Ministers will today amounce details of the judicial ngury into the Cheyd residential homes scandal and a pational review of abuse in children's homes and Mr Howard will amounce consultation on a register of packophiles. Calbi Brown

The States of Jersey are to debate a Private Member's Bill Inmorrow which, it approved, will allow a custoo to be established in the holiday resert for the first time. However, a majority of the bankers and accountants surgeyed by Jersey's Finance and Economics Committee believe it will threaten the island's image as a reputable international finance centre. The Bill is being brought by the Island's fourism Committee President, Senator Dick Shenton, who sees a casino as an essential part of a holiday package. His committee colleagues are split. Philip Jeune

In an honesty test set up by Reader's Digest magazine, which dropped 80 wallets containing £30 m towns and cities. Glasgow and Learnington Spa in Warwickshire tied as the most honest communities, while people in Cardiff were more likely to take the money and run. Overall, 65 per cent of the wallets were hunded in, eight out of ten in Glasgow and Learnington Spa and only four in Cardiff. Women were more honest than men - of 32 who found wallets, 23 handed them in, while only 29 out of 48 men did so.

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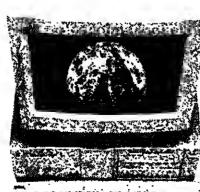
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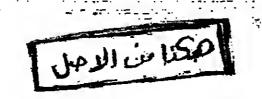
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Teaching of English fails grammar test

Education Editor

Children are learning gram-mar through foreign languages but not through their own, according to research published

today. Most 13- and 14-year-olds have heard of nouns and verbs but do not really know what they are, says the study from Southampton University, part of a five-year research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

They are getting mixed messages about grammar, with modern language teachers emphasising its formal teaching while English teachers encourage children to learn grammar

by using the language. Professor Martin Hughes, the research programme's co-ordinator, said: "It's ironic. If you want to learn about your own language you need to learn another.

Professor Christopher Brum-fit and Dr Rosamond Mitchell, the study's directors, spent a

schools. They also assessed children to discover how much

they knew about language. While foreign language teachers taught grammar in a traditional way, concentrating on individual seutences and words, English teachers tended to teach about whole texts and were more interested in style and genre than grammar.

· The study found that there was very little formal grammar teaching in English lessons.

year analysing dozens of lessons Teachers often do not know by seven teachers in three enough about language to teach enough about language to teach it properly, they concluded.

Dr Mitchell said pupils learned basic definitions of nouns in primary school but that was not developed. We needed to be more systematic about language teaching and teachers needed to be told what pupils of a particular age should understand about grammar. "Most teachers do imaginative things about language but in a

very patchy way. Professor Hughes, of Exeter

University, said: "Pupils' limited understanding of their own language is a scrious cause for

problem of the division of the national curriculum into individual subjects. "What children are learning in one subject may be related in no way to what they are learning in another."

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said the research suffered from confusion about what the word

the ability to construct a sentence so that the meaning is clear. It can also be used as a system which provides a short cut to learning a foreign language. The two have very little

Of course children learn to give names to parts of sentences to learn a foreign language but that isn't something you par-ticularly need when you are speaking and writing your own

programme looked at the nationwide impact of government changes on the education of

pupils aged 5 to 16. Another study, from the Thomas Coram Research Uoit in London, found that, over the last 10 years, the time spent by schools on the basics of English, maths and science had changed little despite the introduction of the national curriculum.

Some experts have suggest ed that the nine-subject curriculum in primary schools has squeezed the basics.

Researchers found that the time leachers spent hearing each child read every week had not changed at all since the mid-Eightnes. Then and now, it was just eight minutes.

However, young children's school days have become more academic. There is more science and less art and craft than a decade ago. The report says the amount of time children spend reading is worryingly low: it is vital that schools involve purents to ensure that all children read at home as well as at scheol.







Surrealist feast: Final hanging for the 'Joan Miro,, Printmaker 1933-63' exhibition which opens at the Tate Gallery Liverpool tomorrow. The prints, from the Joan Miro Foundation in Barcelona, highlight the development of the artist's imagery from the figurative to the gestural

Water firms confident of defying the lack of rain

Environment Correspondent

Rainfall continues to be way below average. The rivers are running low and slow, and the underground water table levels have sunk far below normal levels. But the water companies remain confident of getting through the summer without

months over England and Wales as a whole - in September, December and this February. November had exactly the average and every other month has had below the mean.

A dry June is following a dry April and May. So, with such shortfalls, and after last summer's widespread drought, why no severe shortages and water

any severe restrictions. Since February last year,

E some INT

there has been rainfall above the restrictions this year? mer the worst-affected water

companies have carried out emergency engineering works and taken extra water from rivers and boreholes to avoid the kind of public relations disaster that engulfed Yorkshire Water - which, at one point, was threatening to cut off entire cities for 24 hours at a stretch.

The water companies' total nvestment in boosting suplies, opening pinch-points and mproving connections and flexibility in their limited regional grids has run to £350m, according to the Water Services nine of the "big ten" regional

They have also accelerated their work on cutting mains leakage, which was embarrassingly high for several companies. But this extra speoding is small beer compared to their existing commitments on renewing freshwater and sewer mains

and improving drinking water and sewage treatment works. The companies are not being allowed to raise their bills to pay for the extra work. And the experience has demonstrated how earlier shortages could have

been avoided.

ter companies. South East and Folkestone and Dover, and four of the big ten -Yorkshire, North West, Southern and South West - have hosepipe and

sprinkler bans covering a part

or all of their areas. Yorkshire also has "non essential" use bans covering millions of its customers in Bradford, Leeds, Sheffield, Barnsley, Harrogate and other nearby towns. These bans restrict car washes which do not

of sports grounds, parks and rainfall soon. The Government's Environ

recycle water, and the watering

Association, which represents None the less, the small wa-ment Agency says groundwater levels are below average across England and Wales, and at an all-time low near Brighton and north Kent.

> Of 35 main rivers monitored, 18 have been found to be running below average, and 6 to have less than half the average flow for this time of year. But 11 are flowing at above the av-

erage speed.
The Environment Agency says that South West customers served by Devon's large Roadford reservoir - now, just under half full - will face restrictions unless there is some decent

Europe air fare wars take off

MICHAEL STREETER

A new price battle of the air will start this week as another lowcost airline opens, affering cheap fares in return for no-frills

Deboonir, based at Luton Airport, is providing free tick-ets for its opening flights on Thursday to Munich, Dusseldorf and Barcelona. After that a typical one-way fare to Gernamy will cost £39 and one-way

to Barcelona just £47.
Their services are part of an inprecedented era of cheap travel for Britons eager to leave the country. EasyJet, a cutprice airline at Luton, has just extended its services to Nice and Barcelona. And Le Shuttle train services

are publicising £49 day return fares to the Continent, with some tickets costing only £19 if a passenger wants to slip across the Channel after 2pm - pro-

viding they are back by midnight. Debonair is run by chairman

Marcassola, who has persuaded 500 investors from all over Europe to back his new venture. As with EasyJet, Debonair

aims to reduce costs by providing no hot meals on heard its flights, and by selling tickets direct to the public; though unlike its close rivals it will also be selling flights through trav-el agents. Its Whisper jets will

The vice-president of mar-keting. Barry Zorn, said Debonair was not aiming to take part in an air price war. "We are not thinking about that at all, our concept is just to offer affordable travel. Perhaps people who have never flown before will be attracted by what we have to offer." News of the cheaper air fares

this summer were hailed by consumer groups. Kim Winter. acting deputy editor of Holiday Which? said: "I think generally this is good news for the consumer - as long as people realise that in terms of service they will and chief executive Franco get what they pay for.

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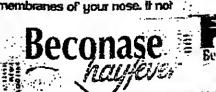
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One of Britain's richest families proposes massive increases for tenants in crumbling Hackney block



No bathroom, but rent rises by 300 per cent

CHRIS BLACKHURST

When one of the tenants in Graham Mansions, Hackney, in the East End of London, wants a bath, he takes the train to his sister's, two stops away. When the Pears family in Hampstead and Totteridge, north London, need a bath, they can choose from any of the numerous bathrooms in their palatial houses.

Graham Mansions, a crum-bling Edwardian block on a main road, is owned by the Pearses, one of Britain's richest families with a fortune estimated at £200m. Clarice Pears, 62, who heads the family, is the fourth wealthiest woman in Britain.

The Pearses have just hit their tenants with rent increases of up to 300 per cent, as much as £500 per month in some cases for flats without bathrooms.

long-term unemployed, many of the 80 tenants live in the conditions of a bygone age. Apart from ool having bathrooms the ones that have them have put them in themselves - they contend with crumbling brickwork, open drains, rotten window frames and gaping cracks

in the exterior walls. In a flat close to the man who takes the train to his sister's for a bath lives an 80-year-old pensioner. He has no bathroom and has received a demand for rent of £500 per month, up from

Like many tenants in Graham Mansions, his rent is paid by Hackney Housing Benefit. Under section 604 of the Housing Act some would qualify as unfit for human habitation," said a Hackney council press officer. Although the

the installation of bathrooms.

Graham Mansions was hought by St Ermins Property Company in 1988. The block is managed by McDowells, a firm of chartered surveyors. Geoffrey Haig, of McDowells, refused to say who owned St Ermins. But a check at Companies House revealed it is part of the Pears

family empire.

Every share in the company belongs to the Pearses. Last year St Ermins, which has four directors, Clarice, Mark, Stephen and David Pears, made profits of £2.2m. The Pears' main company, William Pears Family Holdings, has assets of £122m and last year made profits of £9.7m. The four directors of the holding company were each paid £350,000. The companies own properties across London. Their head office is in a Hampstead mews, close to the family's gracious homes. The family does not court publicity.

Uoder the terms of Graham Mansions' leases, the landlord is responsible, for external

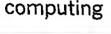
repairs and maintenance. Tenants have objected to the proposed rent increase, sending a list of grievances to the local

Mostly pensioners and the council pays the housing bene-ng-term unemployed, many of fit, she said it could not enforce ing floors, poor electrical wiring. dangerous windows, rotten sills, communal staircases that are woodeo and could be a fire risk. leaking sewage, smelly drains and plumbing that overflows into the garden.

As flats fall vacant, they are being refurbished and bathrooms are being installed. One tenant, who did not want to be named, claimed in a letter to the Rent Officer that the proposed £500 figure "is being based on empty flats that have been completely gutted and refurbished with the benefit of bathrooms, fitted kitchens, central heating and carpeting, throughout, and which I consider grossly unfair."

Two years ago St Ermins applied to have the rents increased to £300 per mouth, up from £80. The teoants appealed and after visiting the flats, the Rent Assessment Committee settled on £110.50. The committee said the block was "in a state of obvious disrepair".

At the Pears company headquarters last Friday, a woman said that none of the family was there. Asked if they would talk about Graham Mansions, she said: "You need to write in, unfortunately. They won't take Rent Officer. They include sub- calls directly."



faxing

Room for improvement: A tenant in one of the Pears' flats without a bath

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DAILY POEM

By Joanne Burns

genetics

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when their collars are too tight in heatwayes

men in suits with firm jaws in heatwaves men in suits with neat attache cases in heatwaves men in suits with property folded handkerchiefs in heatwaves men in suits who wipe their brows discreetly in heatwaves men in suits who never yell at their secretaries in heatwaves men in suits who have dry handshakes in heatwaves

men in suits whose perfect wives are no less perfect in men in suits who would read ayn rand, omni, fortune etc to optimize those periods of insomnia that may occur

in heatwayes sons of men in suits flamboyantly confident in designer shorts in

heatwaves sons of men in suits obstructing the movements of pedestrians with their defiantly raucous skateboards in

get in their way: undeterred by any kind of weather

The recently published Oxford Book of Australian Women's Verse contains a full record of Australian women's poetry from European settlement to the present. At one end of the scale, Fidelia Hill's recollections of her arrival in Adelaide in the early years of the 19th century; at the other, the modern performance poetry of Joanne Burns; in between radical nationalist verse of the 1890s and poets of the 1940s and 50s such as Gwen Harwood and Rosemary Dobson. The anthology is edited by

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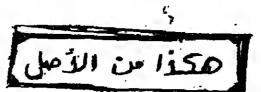
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Inside Burma: The whirring spy cameras at Aung San Suu Kyi's rallies no longer frighten the democracy leader's supporters

Inside Burma: The whiring spy cameras at Auris Junta's foes overcome foar of prying eyes

THOMAS CALEB

The secret police at Aung San Suu Kyi's weekend democracy rallies are easy to spot. With cameras and videos whirring, they elbow through the crowd and focus their lenses, not oo the Burmese opposition leader, but oo every face.

The cruel eye of the secret police often fixes on a roundcheeked lady in her sixties sitting demurely with her umbrella. and her tiffin on a newspaper spread over the muddy ground. She always sits as oear as she

can to the picket fence, where Aung San Suu Kyi comes to speak. The lady has a spray of jasmine in her silver hair and is always smiling. No matter how intrusively the police jam their cameras into her face, the lady oever loses her calm smile. She does not flinch.

Is she afraid of the military regime? Most Burmese with good sense are. Her reply is emphatic: "No! Let them arrest me. I want them to know I want democracy," she said. The lady always arrives three hours be-fore Ms Suu Kyi appears at the fence, and is often caught in a monsooo deluge that rips away her umbrella. Ms Suu Kyi has rushed through the downpour and pleaded with the lady to come into her house until the rally starts. But the smiling lady refuses. It was eoough for her to hear Ms Suu Kyi speak of

The thousands who gather outside the Nobel Peace Prize winner's house beside a lake are ordinary people. They are not martyrs or militants. They are office workers or teachers who feel guilty after being compelled by the military state to sign official denunciations of "foreign stooges" - meaning Ms Suu Kyi. Had they refused, they would lose their jobs and houses. They are young Bodjacaraoda trees, who are sad-

or being press-ganged into widening roads, so that tourist coaches can reach the goldeo pagodas encircled by souvenir shops. They are even the wives and the children of high-ranking officials who, after fierce rows at home, go off to hear

They are all at risk by coming to see Ms Suu Kyi. But the gentle fire of this fragile-looking 49-year-old woman who dares to challenge the generals has given them courage, too.
One rally-goer, standing rather fearlessly next to the barbed fence of a house commandeered by the secret police, said: "She's become like a protective deity for us."

Every rally that Ms Suu Kyi has held since her release last year, after six years under house arrest, has been charged with the uncertainty that, at any time, the riot police hiding at opposite ends of her lakeside home will scythe through the crowd and arresting everyone. including Ms Suu Kyi and other leaders of her National

League for Democracy (NLD).
The danger of her re-arrest
has risen dramatically. The
ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) passed a new law a week ago aimed specifically at her and her supporters. The Slore tried to scare away people from her rallies with threats of jail sentences.

"I'm not sure why they needed this new law," said Ms Suu Kyi, wryly. "They've been arresting people for a long time now without it." When she called an NLD party congress in late May, the angry Slorc arrested 262 league members. More than 120 of her supporters, many of them MPs elected in the 1990 elections, ignored by the junta, are still heing held in houses" around Rangoon.

But she defied the junta. On dhist monks, squatting under 8 June, she clambered up to her usual place oo the fence and bedened that the junta has bought off the abbots with Mercedes sedans. Or, they are poor farm-threats, neither did her supers who are tired of giving half porters. More than 10,000 came

INSURANCE

to hear her (though her tone towards the generals theo and this weekend was milder and slightly conciliatory). "Slore has a low opinion of our Burmese people. They think they're easily frightened. But this isn't true, so many came out," she explained.

Why did the military regime fail to carry out its threats? It is a question that neither Ms Suo Kyi nor Western observers in Rangoon can answer. The inner workings of the secretive ruling council, whose life revolves around military compounds and the golf course, is mystery to Burmese and

foreign diplomats alike. They are reduced to divining the Slore's views on the prorude the insults are against Ms Suo Kyi in the state daily, the

New Light of Myanmar. Lately, the fibes against her have become more venomous. "Maybe the Slore is just biding their time with us," said Ms Suu Kyi.

Directly across the avenue from her house is another villa full of secret police. It is close enough so that police scribes, in T-shirts and sarongs, can take notes on her speeches without leaving the verandah. Ms Suu Kyi is a good speak-

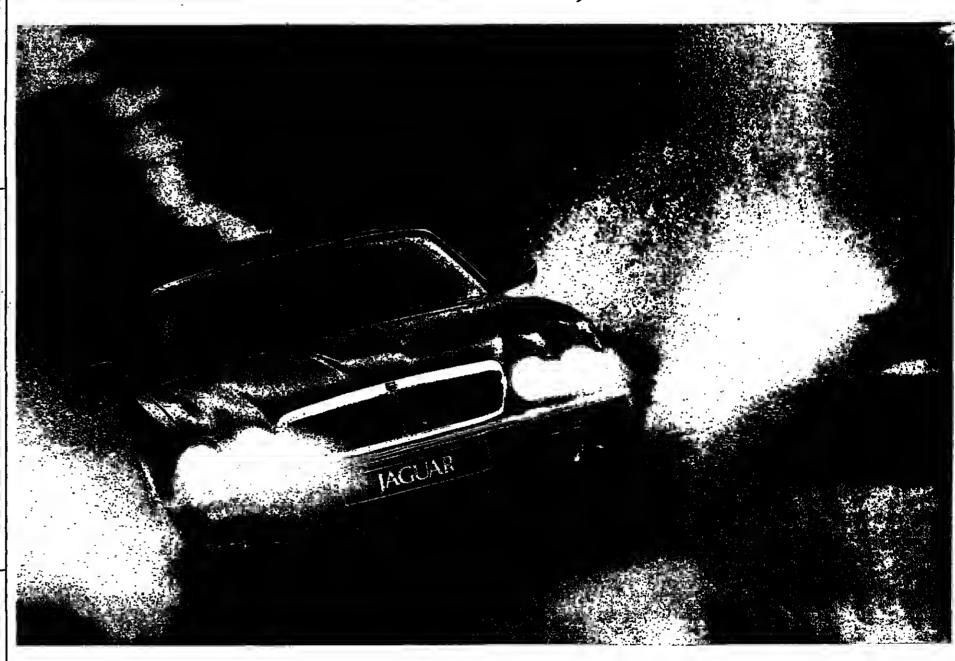
er, friendly and personal, and she cannot resist an occasional joke at the Store's expense. After one jibe, a ripple of laughter spread through the crowd. I glanced over and saw one of the police on the verandah. He was smiling in agreement. Then he caught himself quickly, and solemnly resumed



Undaunted: Aung San Suu Kyi with the chalmman of Burma's democracy league in Rangoon

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HATT POEM

Tactical voting hits Moscow's polling booths

PHIL REEVES

Yevgeny Yegorov had made his mind up about one thing. Wherever else in Russia the authorities might try to fiddle the vote, they would not get away with it on his patch. He and his fellow observers from the Communist Party were going to be as vigilant as hawks.

"I think there probably will be some falsification," he said, as he gazed morosely across the town square, which was teem-ing with people who had come to vote hut who were lingering to watch the election day festivities - clowns, a theatre troupe, and a military band playing favourites from old Soviet movies.

The patch in question was Moskovsky, a community 10 miles south of Moscow which owes its living largely to roses, carnations and cucumbers. For Mr Yegorov and his six party colleagues, this was barren soil, enemy territory where the liheral economist Grigory Yavlinsky came first in December's elections. That was one reason they were here: to weed out any sign of fraud by the pro-reformers.

"They have been very correct very co-operative so far," he admitted yesterday lunchtime, after carefully inspecting the wax seals on the ballot boxes. "But the crucial time is between Som and 10om. The risk is that the organisers have acquainlances whom they know won't be voting, and decide to vote oo their behalf. We will be watching constantly."

The plan was straightforward. He would stay at his post until the count was complete. By law, he would then get a copy of the figures to pass on to party district and regional headquarters. From there it would go up the line to the Communists central committee, where they were doing a nationwide count. "And just in case they suddenly run out of protocols here, I have brought my own,"

Communists vowed to place observers in all the 95,000 stations across Russia to make it as hard as possible for any vote-rigging to occur. Mr Yeltsin's campaign did the same, mindful that many of the local election officials who run the voting stations are

Last night it was impossible to tell whether either side had fulfilled its plans, although there were observers in the Moscow region. Meanwhile, the whole



Inmates voting yesterday in Moscow's Butirskaya jail Photograph: Reuter

process is being watched by 1,200 international observers, roughly one for each of the 85

For all the suspicions of Mr Yegorov, a 60-year-old retired farm official, the scene was as serene as the nearby greeohouses. Children rode bicycles in the square while their parents wandered in to vote or browse the stalls packed with fruit, chocolates, tins of fish, beer. vodka, soap and other luxuries. Two actresses dressed as witches, their peaked hats jutting into the rainy skies, were playing a game called "Make Your Choice". Passers-by had to toss

Inside the busy polling booths Before the election, the there was serious activity. In Detions, many electors had been bewildered. With a choice of 43 parties, many had stood in the booths studying the official guide like punters at the races. But yesterday, they knew what

they were doing.
"I'm for Yeltsin," said Anna Siramashenko, a 78-year-old grandmother, who was a nurse at the Battle of Stalingrad. "People keep saying it's had in Russia today, but I have everything I need. In the war, the earth around us burned. I don't see any burning fields today." More predictably perhaps Alexei and Maxim, 25-year-olds who run their own transport company, also backed the presideot. "There's one reason - freedom," said Maxim.

Democracy is still young in Russia, but Vladimir Koligov, a horticulturist, had learned all its subtleties. The candidate for shom he voted yesterday has littie chance of meeting July's run-off, as well he knew, but his was a carefully planned strategie vote. Mr Koligov chose the liberal democrat, Grigory Yavlinsin will win without his vote.

To Mr Koligov this was not a wasted vote. He believes that if Mr Yavlinsky gets enough votes, Mr Yeltsin will have to strike a deal with him before the next round. The pace of reforms will be quickened. Mr Koligov does not much like Yehsin, but he prefers him to the unknown mantity of Mr Zyuganov, the mmunist leader.

Mr Yeltsin needed strategic voters yesterday. The presi dent's advisers have been fretting that his rash elaims of outright victory last week may well have been an own goal, encouraging people to vote for third party candidates on the grounds that he would win anyway. But, as tactical voting goes, Mr Koligov was operating on a level that even these advisers had not considered. Russians are catching oo to



Close-up: A Russian in St Petersburg studies his ballot paper

Democratic fervour fades in the sunshine

Druzhba

Boris Yeltsin lost at least one vote yesterday because of the "dacha factor". Vitaly Matveyev, was relaxing at his dacha (but and allotment) in Druzhoa, south of the city, had planned to get up early and take the the suburban train to the capital to re-elect the Russian President, especially since public transport

was free on election day. But when he woke and saw the sun was shining after two days of torreotial rain, he changed his mind. "I'll stay here and take my kids into the woods instead," he said. What about the fate of Russia? What will be, will be. "It's in the hands of the gods. I doo't think my little voice will make much difference." Typical Russian fatalism, typical Russian susceptibility to mood. which is why experts told us not to set too much store on polls showing Mr Yeltsin having overtakeo his Commuoist rival,

Gennady Zyuganov. The President's fate will depend on the rest of his supporters being more committed han Mr Matveyev: on any summer weekend, 20 per cent of urban Russians are out of town. In view of the Russian preference for oot taking anything for granted, it was surprising Mr

like a bumptious sportsman, that victory was in the bag, It was an invitation to his coostitueocy to be complacent. Anti-Yeltsin voters, many

from the older generation, were thought more likely to go to polling-stations because they lived through Soviet times when voting, albeit for a single candidate, was a citizen's sacred duty. Yesterday Mr Matveyev's fa-

ther was up at 6am for an hour's walk over muddy fields to the bus which would take him into the nearby town of Kolomna to vote. A pensioner and life-long Communist who has found ecocomie reforms hard to accept, he was planning to vote for the nationalist retired general, Alexander Lebed. "It's because I doo't like Zyuganov as a personality," he said.

Old Mr Matveyev intended to combine voting with going to his daughter's flat in town to take a bath for the first time in two weeks. Druzhba (Friendship), ooe of a chain of Soviet-era allotment settlements which also includes Raduga (Rainbow), is 100km (62 miles) from the capital but conditions are primitive. The commuter belt south of Moscow is not exactly Surrey. Here, for example, there is no running water and Mr Matveyev normally washes

from an upturned bucket. Across the lane from the choice of things to eat."

Yeltsin last week announced, Matveyevs, Viktor Frolov, an engineer at a railway centre, was watering his cucumbers, after which he and his wife were going to drive home to Moscow to vote for Mr Zyuganov. "The Yeltsin years have been hard for all involved in science and

teaching," he said.

At 10am there was a lively stream of traffic to and from Moscow. People who had voted early were driving out to their dachas to enjoy the rest of the day. People who had been at their dachas were cutting the weekend short and returning to town to vote. Police were gearing up for huge traffic-jams.

By the side of the road, the real country folk were coming from village polling-stations dressed in their Sunday best, as if for church. In the market lown of Bronitsa, halfway to Moscow, the local House of Culture, turned into a polling-station for the day, was reporting brisk business

To the side of the yellow-curtained booths, on a trestle table decorated with vases of peonies, a local catering firm was running a buffet. Manager Lyudmila Logvinova said her voting intentions were private but hinted she would op! for a pro-reform candidate. "Food may be expensive," she said. "but at least now there are oo more empty shelves and a good



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Zyuganov on Yeltsin:

'One look at his face would tell you that democracy has never spent the night there'

Yeltsin on Zyuganov:

'He is for the destruction of everything that has been accomplished, under the banner of a socialist revenge'



Jittery Yeltsin stunned by poor turn-out

PHIL REEVES and HELEN WOMACK

Boris Yeltsin's campaign-team last night staged a frantic lastminute effort to persuade Rus-sians to take part in their first presidential election since the end of the Soviet Union, amid fears that he was heading for a disappointing result because of an unexpectedly low turn-out.

Worried that his predicted support had failed to materilise, they drafted in several top artists, who issued an extraordinary appeal to the electorate to go to their polling-booths, only two hours before they closed in Moscow. The move came after initial figures showed turn-out was lower than the 75 per cent Mr Yeltsin's experts had hoped for, which is seen as bad for the President, every opportunity to register their protest about declining living standards and rising crime.
Such was the concern in the

Yeltsin camp that the Prime Minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, implored Russians to go to the voting booths "so as not to trade your future for an extra hour in front of television set or at your dachas and vegetable plots." His words, which reflected fears that many voters were staying at home to watch the Russia-Germany Euro 96

Chechens boycott vote

CARLOTTA GALL

Street in central Groz boarded up and locked yester-day. Outside lay the remnants of the ballot box, torn into

tions here," said Akhmud Adayev, the district's chief er. The day before, gun-

ian clothes drove up at midday, fired automatic rifles into the

gir and seized the hox.

match, were echoed by Sergei

Solovyov, a film director, who appealed to the public to vote

At a press conference at the

President's campaign head-quarters, he told Russia's youth they might "wake op in a dif-ferent country" if they did not vote. Another director, Pyotr

flown in from Germany to vote,

for the President

· Polling stations were open rday to allow Chechens t vote in Russia's presidential election as well as local parliamentary elections organised by the pro-Moscow government installed in Grozzy. But after 18 months of war against Russia. few Chechens turned out to vote, apparently anticipating

poor guide to voting patterns in European Russia, where threequarters of the population lives, but evidence that it had seen a turn-out of 60-70 per ceot hrought gloom to the Yeltsin camp. An official at the president's headquarters in Moscow said turn-out was "much less than expected, and is above all

Todorovsky, and the ballerina Yekaterina Maximova, who had a problem for the President". Despite fears of unrest, voting went more or less smoothly. There were several bomb scares around the country, and a provincial police chief was injured by a mine, but the only se-rious trooble occurred in Grozny, which saw its worst fighting in several weeks.

Earlier, Mr Yeltsin struck a robust note as he voted with his wife Nama on a wet morning in

Asked if Mr Zyuganov could beat him, he cried "No way!" before telling reporters that he planned to spend the evening watching the football, a hizarre tactic given that he oeeded Russians to do the opposite. Like a boxer weighing in for the fight, Mr Zyuganov was

Boris accused of rigging

idency is, formally, the most powerful elected office in the world. The head of state is commander-in-chief of the armed forces with cootrol over the nuclear arsenal. He can also initiate legislation, writes Helen

Boris Yeltsin was Russia's first democratically elected President, chosen in 1991 for five years under the Soviet-era constitution. Tensioo has sur-rounded his campaign for a further term, which will be four years under the constitution of 1993. Rivals have suggested there could be vote-rigging.

In addition to 1.200 interna-tional observers, monitors from political parties are going to the 95,000 polling stations across the the official count. Some 107 million people are eligible to vote.

Apart from Mr Yeltsin, nine

other politicians are running. A nary result should be available today. If no candidate wins an overall majority, the top two go forward to a second round in which the first past the post wins. The second round must be held within 15 days of the announcement of the first round result. A run-off is likely to be held on 7 or 14 July.



equally full of meaningless rhetoric. "All the votes will be ours," he declared as he voted in his Moscow district, a claim that was only slightly more improbable than that of the oationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who announced that he would

get 27 per ceot.

If initial signs that Mr Yeltsin and Mr Zyuganov will finish close to oeck-and-neck are true - and the picture will not become clear until later today then it may, paradoxically, improve the resident's chances of victory in a run-off oext month.

unite Mr Yeltsin's self-confident, But it is also likely to be a

hlow to the morale of the President, who mounted a spectacular campaign in which he travelled the length and breadth of the country, distributing huge wads of money, performing media stunts, making speeches, and generally behaving like a US-style campaigner on the

After such an energetic per formance - culminating in his appearance last week before 100,000 mostly young people in Red Square - it is hard to A narrow defeat may help to re-

imagine that he has other tricks up his sleeve, or the energy to carry them out. Although his health has held up remarkably well, his advisers are bound to be concerned about the risk of a relapse if he has to lauoch a fierce oew assault. A recurrence of his heart trouble would

be a political disaster.

More worrying to his team will be the signs that the effect of his heavy campaigning may begin to wear off. He may also rue his recent claim that he would win outright - a remark that may have deterred tactical

Although only two of the 10 candidates will go through to a July run-off, the performance of other candidates could be crucial. The Kremlin will be hoping for a strong showing from Alexander Lebed, in the belief that he takes votes away from the Communists.

The general, who has little chance of building a political career on his own, has been wooed by Mr Yeltsio receotly. and may join his team before the ruo-off. If he does well, it could mean that a large number of his votes fall into the

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Whitewater scandal: Senate report says Hillary Clinton was behind cover-up into aide's suicide

Legal net closes on First Lady

RUPERT CORNWELL WashIngton

A fraught Whitewater season for the Clintons opened yesterday with a Senate report charging that the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, was behind a concerted attempt to curb the investigation into the suicide of Vince Foster, her friend and deputy White House counsel, in

According to the findings prepared by the Republican majority on the Senate Whitewater Committee and leaked to the Washington Post and New York Times, Mrs Clinton immediately dispatched her trusted lieutenants to contain any potential embarrassment or now notorious Whitewater real-

The Whitewater special prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, will now be asked to investigate whether three of those trusted lieutenants - Mrs Clinton's chief of staff, Maggic Williams, her close friend, Susan Thomases, and the former White House counsel, Bernard Nussbaum committed perjury in their evidence to the committee during its 13 months of hearings or

otherwise obstructed justice. Ms Williams, according to sworn testimony from a Secret Service agent, removed documents from Mr Foster's office on the night of his death, while law enforcement officials have political damage" that could accused Mr Nussbaum of sys-arise from ivir Foster's papers. dematically limiting their access believe could yet lead to her

search was complete, on the instructions of Mrs Clinton.

Thereafter, the report continues, the White House continued to make life as difficult as possible for investigators, obfuscating and prevaricating at every turn.
"Crucial files and documents 'disappeared' or were withheld

from scrutiny wheover ques-tions were raised," it says. Capitot Hill, however, is only one of the places which will be making Whitewater headlines in the coming days and weeks. Today a second Whitewaterrelated trial starts in Little Rock, while the Senate criticism of Mrs Clinton can only embolden Mr Starr in his investi-

These dealt, inter alia, with the to the office until his own secret indictment for either perjury or obstruction of justice. Although she never testified to the committee, Mrs Clinton has already suffered the indignity unprecedented for a sitting First Lady - of being summoned hefore a federal

grand jury.

Lurking in the background, meanwhile, is a forthcoming Supreme Court ruling on the sexual harassment suit brought against the President by the former Arkansas state employ-ee, Paula Jones. If the court refuses to hear an appeal by Mr Clinton, intensely embarrassing pre-trial proceedings could start this autumn, just weeks before

Publicly, the Clinton camp is sneering at the Senate report, deriding it as "a taxpayer-sub-

sidised press release for the Republican Presidential campaign", while the separate verdict to be delivered by the Democratic minority on the committee will undoubtedly clear the White House of all

wrongdoing.
But the renewed Whitewater controversy, coupled with the rumpus over alleged White rumpus over alleged White House misuse of confidential FBI files in 1993, may be starting to have an impact on public opinion. Recently as high as 25 per cent, Mr Clinton's lead in the polls over his Republican challenger Bob Dole is narrowing - to as little as 6 per cent in a Time/CNN survey wiblished vesterilar.

survey published yesterday. Nor will the trial of two Arkansas small-town bankers which starts today advance Mr

which ended last month with the conviction on fraud charges of his former Whitewater partners, James and Susan McDougal and Jim Guy Tucker, his successor as Arkansas Governor, the President will give videotaped testimony for the defence, probably on 7 July.

Herby Branscum Jr and Robert Hill are accused of illegally . channelling \$13,000 (£8,500) into Mr Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial re-election campaign. Though the sum involved is derisory, the case could implicate Bruce Lindsey, the Clinton campaign treasurer of six years ago who remains one of the President's closest White House advisers. If so, the discomfort for Mr Clinton would be acute.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS (CC)

Who, the Beirst newspaper L'Orient Le Soir wanted to know on its front page this weekend, "committed this especially hateful crime"? If Israeli troops had been clearly to blame for the death of three Lebanese children on Bridger for death of the control of the of the con clearly to biame for the death of three Lebanese chiktren on Friday, few doubt that it would have prompted an immediate response from Richollah guerrillus, and calls from the Lebanese government for the condemnation of Israel at the UN. But the deaths of eight-year-old Tagrid Kateish, and Hamameh Hussein and Mohamed Jawad, both agust 12 most roa that simple.

and reamanted researched accounted an ughy crame against my occupation forces have committed an ughy crame against children in Houla to distort resistance operations. This denial might have been more credible had the guerrillas not mial might have been more credible had the guerrellas few announced responsibility for a bomb on the same strench of roadway the previous day, explosives which, the Hisboilah boasted at the time, wounded a Lebanese "collaborator". Under the terms of the April ceasefire, every truce violation must be referred to an international committee, which does not yet exist. Robert Fish - Beirar

Durindien troops massacred at least 70 Hutu civil-Bians in central Borundi last Thursday, community workers quoted survivors as saying The experience workers, who have lived in the area of the massacre for two years but declined to be identified, had a list of the names of 40.
Fixing and one member of the Twa ethnic group who were willed by troops. Renter - Bujumbura

Ibanians turned out to vote in a re-run of general elections in 17 constituencies after a first round was plagued by irregularities, boycotted by the opposition and criticised in the West. Most opposition parties, including the Socialists, abstained from vesterday's ballot, saying they would be satisfied only with a fresh election for most partiamentary seats. Reuter - Trans.

It inspectors left lead after a confrontation with Traci guards who barred them from entering sites suspected of containing illegal weapons material. The chief LIN inspector said the stand-off was the most serious in the five years that the teams have been sent to Iraq. The Iraqis would not let inspectors enter three sites, and allowed only partial entry to a fourth. "We were surprised at the way the fracts behaved." Nikita Smidovich said after he arrived in Bahrain, regional headquarters of the inspecture. Special Commission. This time was different. This time they flatly denied access." AP - Baghdad

Chinese and American negotiators raced against the clock yesterday to settle differences over copyright piracy and avert a multi-billion-dollar trade war. With hours to cy and avert a multi-billion-dollar trade war. With hours to go before punishing trade sanctions begin, a source said of ficials were struggling to hammer out the final text of an agreement. An official of China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation said no announcement was likely today. Tit-for-tat trade sanctions will go into force at midday today unless Peking and Washington resolve their differences. Reside — Peking

The party that came out on top in Bangladesh's elections last week got support yesterday, which will boost its usem to form the next government. We urge the President yes invite the Awami League, the single largest party in parliament, to form the new government, the Jatha Party such Jatha, led by Hussam Mohammad Ershad, emerged is the third largest party in Wednesday's woing. The supplying the Jatha Barty gives the Awami League of Sheikh instituted a legistice of more than half of the 300-member parameters.

President Jacques Chirac led 3,000 French and German youths in a tribute to the 350,000 soldiers of both countries who fell in the Battle of Verdun in the First World War Mr Chirac called on the youths "to mobilise or her place to work in peace, security and prosperity and that justice and solidarity will reign among the peoples of Europe." Reuter - Verdun

An angry columnist unged Muslims to boycott Coca-Cola products in Kniwait because of a photograph. "I am calling on every Muslim: Do not think Coca-Cola," Found Hashem one of Kniwait's most prominent columnists, smole. "Let them go to bell with their drink." The picture showed a man in a Muslim prayer position prostrating to the Coca-Cola logo. Renter - Econolists.

Thriving on all the news unfit to print

tn this age of virtue, when politicians are expected to act as though they were halfway to sainthood, regular appearances in scandal sheets would seem to be the wrong way to curry favour with the voters. Yet it is to scandals that Gerhard Schröder, once-obscure leader of the region of Lower Saxony. can attribute his inexorable rise: every controversy propels him nearer to the apex of power in Germany.

In Britain, Mr Schröder would be labelled a champagne socialist. But the good life for Germany's left-wing bons viveurs is more demanding than that. Drinking fine wines is only a sideline for the Social Democrats of the "Tuscany set". Jetting to Vienna for an opera at a company's expense, as Mr Schröder has done, is deemed more impressive.

Some taxpayers in his debtridden Land were shocked by that particular escapade, espe-cially when they discovered his trip had been paid for by Volkswagen, the region's most im-portant company, in which Mr Schröder's government still holds shares. But most agreed that their leader had deserved his little holiday and congratulated him for getting somebody else to foot the hill.

The episode, whipped into a scandal by the conservative popular press, was symptomatic of the way Mr Schröder can turn adverse publicity to his advantage. The hreak-up of his marriage this year was another example, Mr Schröder, 52, had run off with a journalist 20 years his junior and the tahloids were getting into sermonising mode but the object of their odium, instead of crawling into a hole, went on the attack.

If papers wanted scandal, he



No 21: Gerhard Schroder

would give it them by the shov-elful. By the end of an account of the demise of the marriage, readers were convinced Mr Schröder had been the injured party all along. Why, his wife even refused to make schnitzel when he got home from a

The story was told as a German Dallas at the court of Hanover, which under Mr Schröder regained some of the glory lost long ago with the departure of the local ruling family for England. His expulsion from the palace by his wife was transformed from a tale of marital infidelity into martyrdom.

Political disloyalty, which Mr Schröder has in abundance, has also kept him in good stead. He can take credit for shafting the Social Democrats' unpopular leader, Rudolf Scharping, last year. Mr Schröder sniped



Gerhard Schröder: Leering tabloids boosted his career

begging to be overthrown, which happened when Oskar Lafontaine mounted a leadership challenge in November.

Mr Scharping was readied for the kill by criticism from Hanover. What the party needed, Mr Schröder said, was a leader with strong convictions, charisma, and popular appeal.
Although he fell short of specifying that the party boss should
be called Gerhard, most people got the message.
As the lustre of the

Lafontaine regime fades, the Schröder alternatives seems ever more alluring. The SPD is again in the doldrums. Its tradeunion allies have mounted spectacular demonstrations against the conservative government's austerity programme but have not made an iota of difference to the fiercest attack since the war on the welfare state.

"Somebody must stop Kohl," the cry goes out, no later at least than the next elections in 1998. Mr Lafontaine patently will not be able to do it, but Mr Schröder might. The left hates him because he seems to believe in nothing other than himself and the need to create a lowwage climate in which big business can operate.

He says ontrageous things about left-wing economics and the common European currency that is so important to the German establishment - "monopoly money". But he is also popular in the country, the only SPD politician who could give Helmut Kohl a run for his money, say the polls. A few more headlines, however unfavourable, would go a long way towards ensuring his candidature for a party in kamikaze



Waifs and spray: Children in Bombay flee giant waves whipped up by weather that Imre Karacs | has already caused 100 deaths over the past three days

Weekend Breaks with THE INDEPENDENT

Two nights for the price of one

ake a hreak with The Independent, the Independent on Sunday and Novotel Hotels. We've teamed up to offer readers two superb deals.

You can get away from it all and enjoy a 'two nights for the price of one' weekend break at a Novotel Hotel. Plus if you take two children up to the age of 16, they can stay free if they share their parents' room. Alternatively, you can sample the excellent cuisine offered in The Garden Brasserie, at every Novotel, for just £5

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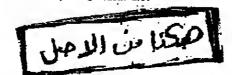


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the leader page

Keep talking: it's the only way to beat them

the peace process for the time being is over. That doesn't mean the political process is over - the search for a new political settlement for Northern Ireland must go on. But the whole point of this peace process as originally envisaged was that it included Sinn Fein and the IRA. After Manchester, it is very hard to see how they can be hrought back in for a long time.

The problem for the peace process is this. Either Gerry Adams knew that the Manchester bomb was going to happen, or he did not. Whichever it was, our conclusions must be bleak.

If he did know, the republican movement has been playing a nice cop, nasty cop routine; "He's a nice fellow Gerry, but he's got these brutal friends. So if you don't deal with Gerry..." No democratic government can respond to that. Ergo, the peace process is dying, even if the IRA do resume the cease-fire. The image of Gerry Adams as Gandhi outside the (not quite) all-party talks is so swiftly displaced by the devastated centre of an English city that the whole charade crumbles before our eyes.

Few can now take seriously any "pause" in bombing that the republican movement chooses to include in. The Manchester bomh may well have been. an attempt to demonstrate their position and power before resuming a cease-fire

he IRA is stupid; and once more. No organisation can be because the IRA is stupid, allowed to get away with such crude bulallowed to get away with such crude bullying. Although in the past, other parties to the talks might have been prepared to accommodate IRA qualms about de-commissioning, or clever words about the permanence of the cease-fire, now things have changed. The Mancbester bomb and the murder of an Irish detective in Limerick have done much to harden hearts. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister and Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister, have stuck their necks out in the past to give Sinn Fein the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to peace. Now they - like John Major, nationalist John Hume and unionist David Trimble and others prepared to compromise for peace - have been humiliated. In Mr Bruton's words yesterday, "This is a slap in the face to people who've been trying, against perhaps their better instincts, to give Sinn Fein a chance to show that they could persuade the IRA

> Both governments will be sceptical about including Gerry Adams or Martin McGuinness in peace talks now. A ceasefire alone will not and should not be enough for the British and Irish governments to deal with Sinn Fem. The repubhean movement will have to demonstrate that this time it really means it. Short of surrendering its arms voluntarily, it is hard to imagine what they could do to overcome people's cynicism.

to reinstate the cease-fire."



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E145DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 . 0171-345 2435

But consider the alternative scenario. What if Gerry Adams didn't know and didn't approve of the Man-chester bomb? This is in some ways worse. It suggests that the IRA have given up on him, Sinn Fein and the peace process - or at least that those charge have. The hig question then is whether Gerry Adams would ever split the republican movement in the cause of peace. To do so would greatly enhance his international standing but risks making him the Michael Collins of the 1990s, courting assassination by his former colleagues, in pursuit of the

If he were to split on his own, without taking any of the military wing or public support with him, he would be nigh-on useless. Like politicians who have split from the republican movement before, he would swiftly disappear

But there is an optimistic view. Possibly, just possibly, Gerry Adams and cronies who are prepared to compro-mise can either win an internal power struggle, or take enough people with them to weaken the military extremists wbo are left behind. Of the 15 per cent of Northern Ireland voters supporting

as disgusted and distillusioned with the news of the bomb as everyone else. They will be well aware that Sinn Fein only started down the conciliatory route in the first place because 25 years of violence achieved nothing, IRA hardliners who want to return to decades more pointless violence must eventually lose credibility among their own people. To make himself politically respectable, Gerry Adams must sooner or later break with the real hard men in the IRA.

But no matter how optimistic we are and how benign we believe Gerry Adams to be, the bottom line is that it will take Sinn Fein some time to change its spots. And either way, the military campaign of a ruthless minority will go on.

So has anything survived Manchester? Yes. Although the peace process is dead, the political process must and will go on. Eighty-five per cent of Northern Ireland voters did not support the IRA, and their interests should be represented. David Trimble, as leader of the Ulster Unionists, has acquitted himself well in the talks so far, being willing to compromise and distancing himself from Ian Paisley's obstinacy. Negotiations between Trintble. Hume, and the Irish and British governments are still extremely worthwhile. They have the chance to create Gerry Adams last month, many felt a new political atmosphere and new

they were voting for a genuine, if institutions in which unionists and tough, strategy for peace. Many were nationalists can work together on nonsectarian issues. In time, we must hope that Sinn Fein's supporters, with or without Gerry Adams, abandon their allegiance to the bombers, and move into the democratic mainstream. Progress in Northern Ireland is possible without the IRA.

The road to a more secure Irish settlement will be long and difficult. The behaviour of the 1RA in the past few months will bave disillusioned many who were naive about its intentions. We had long been told that the IRA were sophisticated political operators, elever in their propaganda and the way they manipulate outside opinion. Look at Gerry Adams glad-handing his way round US TV studios raising cash and political capital. Consider, too, the way they have refrained from violence in Northern Ireland itself in the past few months.

In fact the IRA is not a brilliant machiavellian organisation, nor is it united. The belligerence of hardliners who cannot see further than the next explosion will ultimately damage the interests of the republican movement as well as destroying the prospects for immediate peace. The other parties to the talks must keep their nerve. The only way to marginalise and destroy the terrorists in the end will be if the democratic politicians keep talking, working and moving forward together.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Time to tackle global poverty

Sir: You rightly gave Christopher Bellamy's article ("The end of war - and peace", 14 June) on our ever dangerous world the front page prominence it deserved.

As we approach the end of the millennium, hundreds of thousands of people are losing their lives in internal conflicts, while millions are forced to flee and face an uncertain future in burgeoning refugee camps. The causes of recent conflicts are complex and varied, but the common cause they invariably share is poverty. Poverty all too often leads to disputes over scarce resources between communities forced to live on the edge of survival. These conflicts are resource wars".

The gap between rich and poor is accelerating. Surely the time is ripe for the leaders of the rich world to take a lead in tackling this insidious threat of global poverty? As well as the moral imperative for action it is increasingly obvious that global security will serve all

our interests.
The short-sighted policy of containment not only costs lives but also does not make economic sense. In the last five years the UK's peacekeeping hudget has shot from £32m to an estimated

£275m. The costs are soaring. Intervening earlier, being vigorous with preventive diplomacy and, crucially, investing in efforts to tackle poverty would save lives and go a long way to prevent conflicts spiralling out of control. Prevention is better – and cheaper

than cure. When the leaders of the world's richest and most influential countries meet in France for the G7 Summit at the end of this month they might care to reflect, and act, on this fact. DAVID BRYER Director Oxford

Sir: It was gratifying to see the Independent give such prominence to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute report and the phenomenon of the numerous armed conflicts within "weak" or "failed" states ("The end of war -and peace", 14 June). Such conflicts kill tens of thousands of people each year, cause massive population displacements and destroy the livelihoods and development prospects of millions, yet they receive little coverage in most of the United Kingdom

Your readers may be interested to know that the UK contains a very active community of agencies and researchers working to understand and address this mndern scourge. The UK Network on Conflict, Development and Peace (Codep) was formed in 1993 and provides a forum for many of the Non-Governmental Organisations working in countries affected by conflict. Besides the large humanitarian

uid and development NGOs, the Overseas Development Administration and researchers, The network also includes those NGOs which have specially been formed to prevent and resolve conflicts through facilitation. training and advocacy. JOHN BORTON Relief and Disaster Policy Overseas Development Institute

London NWI



Cash's Trotskyist tactics

Sir: If Bill Cash's Bill earlier this week had heen a straightforward plea for a referendum on UK membership of a single currency, once the details of the deal and the circumstances of convergence were known, it would probably have commanded widespread support within all parties (including myself).

For most, I think, accept the principle that such a major constitutional departure as a single currency requires popular assent or the legitimacy of any new constitutional dispensation would increasingly be questioned. Bill Cash, however, sought

something quite different. He sought a referendum in advance of any specific proposals with the following loaded question: "Do you want the UK to propose and insist (my emphasis) on irreversible changes in the Treaty on European Union so that the UK retains its powers of government and is not part of a Federal Europe nor part of a European Monetary Union, including a single currency?" Just how this might be implemented

raises many questions.
Tory Euro-sceptics are often compared to Labour's Bennites in the early 1980s. I think a comparison with Trotskyists is more apt in that Bill Cash appears to be proposing demands that are probably impossible to fulfill in the hope that the popular disappointment this engenders will help huild a bridge between present realities (in which most people favour EU membership) to a future in which the EU is fundamentally recast or sails on

without the UK. That some of Bill Cash's supporters back the line for fear of being savaged by James Goldsmith and his money adds insult to injury. That Baroness Thatcher is now backing such apparent Trotskyist tactics only compounds this. HARRY BARNES MP (North East Derbyshire, Lab) House of Commons London SW1

Abused children's complaints

Sir: All credit to the Independent for its persistent reporting on the abuse of children in residential care and the failure to publish the

Jillings Report.
The news that there are to be two nquiries - one national with full judicial powers and one into abuse of children in Clwyd - is welcome and long overdue ("At last the children are heard", 13 June). It would be comforting to think that since implementation of the Children Act 1989 such widespread abuse of children would no longer be possible

pioneered the introduction of complaints procedures and independent advocacy services in residential care in the North-west, we are painfully aware that this is not the case. Section 26 of the Act requires each local authority to establish a procedure for considering any representations (including any complaint) made to them by any child who is being looked after by them.

Children attempting to make complaints are in an extremely vulnerable position. They fear that speaking out may lead to the withdrawal of services or affection. or even more active victimisation. Children are reluctant to use procedures which they do not fully understand and find forbidding and

Experience shows that it is virtually impossible for a child or a young person to complain effectively without an independent adult advocate to stand beside them. Even with such support complaints procedures may present children with a prolonged and tortuous obstacle course which they are understandably reluctant to negotiate in the absence of effective redress at the end of it. The child's complaints are frequently denied, on the basis that they have

misunderstood or over-reacted.

A key element in inquiries into abuse in residential care has been classification of basic human rights as "privileges". Telephone calls. contact visits, even food in some cases, are privileges to be earned or withheld by staff who may be all powerful in their own isolated and abusive systems. This power is exercised not just in respect of vulnerable children but also in respect of other adults and professionals who may become sucked into a distorted and punitive regime in the name of "care" and, dare it he said, "the best interests of the child". JUDITH TIMMS Director, Independent Representation for Children in Need Heswall, Merseyside

Penalties for late Solution to fast payment of debts

Sir: The remarks of Richard Page, minister for small husiness, blaming small firms for the late payment of their hills ("Small firms' fury over debt blame", 14 June) are the latest in a line of ministerial gaffes over late

The Federation of Small Businesses estimates that 5,000 of the 40,000 small firms that went under last year were victims of late payment, and a survey by the Forum for Private Business found that late payment had prevented one in five small firms from expanding.

Unlike this government, Labour is determined to change the culture which regards late payment as an acceptable practice. We will force government departments and other public agencies to pay on time, make large firms state in their annual accounts how often they paid late and introduce, after consultation on the best way to do it, a statutory interest rate for late payment of debts above a minimum hreshold.

firms are disadvantaged because big business and government departments use them as a source of free credit. BARBARA ROCHE MP (Hornsey and Wood Green, Lah) House of Commons London SW7

It cannot be right that small

The writer is the Shadow Smull Business Minister

Campion Hall Oxford

Men are wanted

tennis serve

Sir: Your article (15 June) "Tennis

stars at full stretch to serve faster

than ever" highlights again, this

time from the aspect of longer

'serve and volley', the over-

halls, or different rackets, etc)

powerful first service.

rackets, the current problem of

Surely the simple and inexpensive

(because no need to invest in slower

solution is to ration the number of

second services, I would suggest the

following. The server is allowed a

maximum of three of them in each

in which case one is allowed for

every two points played.

game, unless deuce point is reached.

This solution preserves the thrill of full-speed first serves (ic on

has a second service in reserve), bu

by rationing them eliminates their

present undue predominance.

Dr NORMAN TANNER

points when the server knows he

Sir: Your correspondent, Patricia Dawson (Letters, 14 June), expresses concern for the NHS should those 60 per cent of men. who had not signed on with a GP. now do so.

Perhaps she would sleep better were she to realise that general practices are paid capitation fees. would therefore benefit from such an exercise and would then be able to provide their unwell patients with improved services, particularly since these men appear to make so little demands on the health service. Dr D L MAXWELL London SE3

Disadvantaged summer babies

Sir: The Cambridge research reponed today ("Summer children lose out in lessons", 12 June) confirms that carried out in Sheffield University when 1991 GCSE results were analysed. In this context it is interesting to note that findings published in 1994 by the National Federation for Educational Research (NFER) stated that "children who started school close to the age of four did less well than others. For older children length of schooling appeared to relate positively to achievement at Key Stage 1.

Parents of summer-born children in England and Wales are in a cleft stick here because. however much they may feel it advisable to withhold their child until the beginning of the next school year (when they would be the age for starting school), they would then most probably have to bypass the reception year (Year R) and go straight into Year 1. Even if they have had the benefit of a good nursery education beforehand, this will not necessarily compensate for. having to "hreak in" to the already established group and they will have missed the shared experiences of the others in the class.

Since statutory provision gives no child the right to three terms' education in Year R, we think a national policy for annual admission to primary education is nceded in England and Wales which would give this right to all children.

One way of achieving this would be for those children born in May to August to start in the September after their fifth hirthday - the statutory age for staning school together with the autumn and spring-born who are due to enter in that school year. They would all then have the benefit of three terms in Year R, which would prepare them for tackling Year 1 of the National Curriculum in the following year and would probabl: raise standards. Mrs PENICHOLAS Campaign for Equal. Access to Primary Education for All Stevenage. Hertfordshire

Co-ordination of writing skills

Sir: I agree with Michael Harvey about the benefits of learning good handwriting (Letters, 13 June). They also apply to tearning to draw or paint, However, the visuo-spatial and fine-motor co-ordination which are required for writing can develop significantly later than those required for letter and word recognition and learning to read or select letters from a keyboard. Many children suffer a slight

degree of dyspraxia which is often unrecognised but which affects their hand-eye co-ordination and physical ability to trace, let alone draw, outlines or shapes. It this difficulty is allowed to frustrate them in learning to construct words from letters, their problems are worsened.

It is important for teachers and parents to recognise the difference between the skills of handwriting and the skills of literacy and not to assess levels of one by standards of the other. Handwriting should be learnt and practised alongside reading and writing, but must not become an obstacle to the acquisition of literacy. SARA CLARKE Hayfield. Derbyshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Revealed: the 'Irish-American' senator who is as Irish as a stuffed vine leaf

As George Mitchell takes up his role as chairman of the peace talks, David Usborne visits Waterville, Maine, to dig out his roots

asked by the British and Irish governments to chair the multi-party peace abandon the Nicaraguan Contalks on Northern Ireland. He tras for the love of God and had already spent the winter for the love of country". The navigating the province's sec-senator replied: "Although he is tarian cross-fire in preparing regularly asked to do so, God the report on arms decommissioning that paved the way for last month's elections. What possible attraction could there be in returning to the same bat- of a lack of patriotism." tleground in the summer, when he could be in New York with his young wife of less than two spurred last week's poisonous years, paricularly when the spewings by the Unionists. Not chances of success seemed only is he an American, they

from Maine is cursing now for entreaties of Duhlin and London, who could hlame him? sure to be prejudiced against Last week, he found himself vil- the province's protestant ified by Unionists who furi-ously denounced him as an Irish-American who would Senator Mitchell late on Thesautomatically hold a bias in day, the Reverend Ian Paisley, favour of the Catholic nation-alists. Then came this week-the hardline Democratic end's bloody terrorist explosion Unionist Party, vowed to skip in the heart of Manchester. Could prospects for the talks, from which Sinn Fein are calling him the "Pope" and "a excluded indefinitely, look crony of Gerry Adams". more hleak?

Yet this morning Senator tience over these outbursts, Mr Mitchell has still not packed his Mitchell showed only bewilbags and he has become more important to the future of rience for me," he told a Northern Ireland than ever. A deal in the middle of last week Times. "In 30 years in Amerireconfirmed his position in the chair, although the precise extent of his powers is still to be detailed. Meanwhile, he and his co-chairmen, the former Canadian Chief of Staff, General John de Chastelaine, and the former Prime Minister of Finland, Harri Holkeri, issued a 20,000 in central Maine with a statement deploring the Man- main street of proud hrick chester hlast. "This reprehensible act comes at a crucial tory that stems from the textile time, just days after multi-party talks hegan," they declared. "We believe that the way to peace is not through violence hut rather though meaningful

Anyone who deals with Mr from reality. Mitchell should know not to make assumptions about him. Consider, for example, that meek and owlish exterior, and monkish smile. There is steel within the man who has been

eorge Mitchell and a federal judge, as well as hesitated when a politician. Take the day during the Iran-Contra hearings when he chided Oliver North for pleading to Congress not to politics. And in America, disagreement with the policies of the government is not evidence

It was assumptions - wrong smouldered, hut also an Irish-If the former US senator American. That made him a paid-up member of the East Coast Irish aristocracy of the Kennedy clan and therefore majority. Even after the agreement was reached to accept any session directly under the former senator's chairmanship,

Rather than anger or impa derment. "This is a new expereporter from the New York can politics, no one ever asked what my religion is or where my

If the Unionists really want to understand the hackground of Senator Mitchell, they should look to where he came from: Waterville, a town of façades and an industrial hisand paper mills that used to line its river, the Kennebec. If he were to spent some time here, Dr Paisley would find how far the caricature he has conjured for Mr Mitchell is removed

True, there is emerald blood he is a Catholic. But it is not Guinness or Irish hread he asks



he chairs the next full session of talks. Above: his sister, Barbara, and Laya, who runs the Lebanese bakery in his hometown, Waterville, Maine hotographs: Pacemaker/Whitney Draper

favourite Irish pub (unusually for a New England town of this size, there is none). With Barbara, his little sister, and his three elder brothers, John, Paul and Robbie, who all still live here, he likes to eat Middle Eastern staples such as stuffed vine leaves, lentils and goat's yoghurt. For, in blood terms, Mr Mitchell is at least as much Lebanese as he is Irish; and culturally, he is far more so. The Catholic part, meanwhile, is not Roman but Lebanese Maronite.

Gathered one day last week in the Waterville home of Barbara, she and two of the brothers, Paul and John, admit to knowing little about their paternal grandfather. Apparently named Kilroy, he came to the US from Ireland with his wife in the senator's veins. And true, at the end of the last century. Their son - who was to be the senator's father - was given for when he comes home to away to an orphanage and, Waterville, where he was born. somehow, perhaps aboard an an army intelligence officer Nor does he head for a orphan train from Boston.

found his way to Waterville at the age of three. The boy was picked out from a line-up after mass one Sunday in the town's only Maronite church by a Lebanese couple who raised him. It was this pair who chose the name Mitchell, seemingly because it closest resembled their original Arabic name, although what that was no one knows. Joseph Kilroy was

community, which has now been largely dispersed by intermarriage. Laya, behind the counter, offers spinach pies and she and Barbara exchange some words in Arabic about the unusually repressive heat today. It used to be that the priority for immigrants in this country and for first-generation Americans was integration. It was a process of Americanisa-

If he were to visit Waterville, Mr Paisley would find the caricature he has conjured is removed from reality

renamed George Mitchell and in time, he married a Lebanese girl, Mintaha Saad.

Barbara and I visited the spot where the first home of George and Mintaha (later Mary) Saad stood, Here, squeezed hetween the Kennebec and the old Maine Central Railroad, used to be an almost exclusively Lebanese slum into which the senator and his siblings were born.

George senior was a janitor and Mary worked nights in one of the wool mills. The Mitchells escaped the area in the early Forties and it was razed in 1960. Now there is only a meadow and a car park which this weekend has been given over to a summer funfair.

"This is where all the Lebanese hegan, right here," Barbara exclaims wistfully. We cross back over the tracks to the Lebanese Bakery on Temple Street, one of the few visible reminders of the old Lebanese

tion that was often achieved through sports, where ethnic identities were forgotten. The Swisher, who still coaches college basketball, remembers: "We would play with Jewish-Americans, Lebanese-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Italian-Americans, but no one ever thought of anyone being anything other than plain American." This is the same philosophy that is feeding the senator's current bemusement in Belfast. "I am not an Irish-American." he told the Times. "I am not a Lebanese-American. I am not

a hyphenated American." But inside the walls of the Mitchell home there was a strong ethnic influence and it was provided by the mother. Until her death, Mary could barely read or write in English and she mostly spoke either Arabic or French with her husband. The children attended a Lebanese Maronite school and went to the Maronite church

every Sunday (the senator was an altar boy).

Of his father's origins, Paul,

the eldest, remarks; "I don't remember even having a discussion with him about his Irish. heritage." Barbara concurs: "In my childhood, I can't remember anything said or mentioned about Ireland. It didn't even exist." If ever the children told friends that their father was in fact of Irish stock, they would not believe them. Even the fact of his deep hive eyes would not persuade them that George senior was not Lebanese.

Mary reached for when she first concluded that George, aged about eight, was not growing fast enough and risked becoming the family runt. Barbara remembers: "My mother and father would travel about 15 miles in a borrowed car to get goat's milk for George. When they came home they would pour it into one of the glass bottles that the regular milk came in, so George wouldn't realise, and tell the rest of us: "Don't you dare drink that. that's for little George." Well he grew two inches in a year, so maybe she was right." She and her brothers laugh about the story even though they must have related it a hundred times. But Barbara adds teasingly: "T don't think goat's milk is drunk in Ireland, is it?"

There are other clues here, meanwhile, that Mr Paisley might appreciate, like the large framed photograph in the hall of Barbara's house of the senator and Barbara meeting the Queen in Washington a few years ago. (The only images of Mr Adams I can find are on

might also approve of the new wife, whom the 62-year-old senator married amid much media wonderment in New York, at the end of 1994, just prior to his retirement from the Senate. A former tennis agent, Heather MacLachlan is 37 years old, an old flame of the one-time star player from Romania, Ion Triac, and strikingly beautiful. And she happens to be neither

brother's travails in Belfast.) He

Irish, nor Lebanese nor Catholic, but a Canadian Anglican of Scottish heritage. What the Unionists will not forget is Senator Mitchell's perceived association with Teddy Kennedy and other prominent Irish-Americans during his years on Capitol Hill. It is true that he was not able to escape the Kennedy orbit altogether. He would attend annual St Patrick's Day luncheons in Washington. When President

Clinton first pondered extend-

ing a visa to Mr Adams to visit

the United States, Mitchell was

among about 45 senators and

representatives who signed a

letter urging him to do so. But as a politician, the sena-tor's Irish identity was never strongly visible. The few times he was honoured by an ethnic community, it was by the Lebanese, not the Irish. "I don't believe he was ever regarded as an Irish American in Congress," says Harold Pachios, a leading Maine

lawyer and lifetime Mitchell friend who lives in Portland. Pachios is less puzzled than angered by all the Unionist assaults on Mr Mitchell. "Does Paisley think he looks Irish?" he

demands. "The Reverend Pais-

ley obviously has other reasons for saying these things because they are not true. Pachios also points to the one widely acknowledged quality in Mr Mitchell that presumably recommended him to Dublin and Ireland in the first place: his ability always to be impartial, "There isn't another human being I know who is less

likely to be moved by passion. prejudice or anything of that sort. He is not factional in his approach to anything." Mr Mitchell has backed out of things before. Even his decision to retire from the Senate took everybody by surprise. Months before, President Clin-

ton had paid him the highest was general astonishment when Mr Mitchell turned that down. So why should he not turn away now from a peace process that this morning seems only inches from disaster? It may be that he still has

faith that he can make a difference and that a settlement may even now he within reach. Perhaps he feels he owes it to the Irish peace process, however ragged, is still an important card in his re-election gameplan. There is another possi-bility, too: increasingly it is being whispered that if there is a second Clinton administration, the first choice for a US Secretary of State, charged with negotiating peace all around the world, could be George Mitchell. For that job. the Ulster peace talks could not be a more worthy test



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English friend, I observed that things had come to a pretty pass when Robert McCariney QC, MP, leader of the tiny UK Unionist Party (which includes Conor Cruise O'Brien on its negotiating team), had told a member of the Ulster Unionist Party to "get in there and join your Lundy friends". "What was he driving at?"

with it? Were they in tears?" Eventually we sorted ourselves out. McCartney's was Robert Lundy, governor of Londonderry in 1689, who proposed surrendering the city to the forces of King James II but was overruled by stout-hearted citizens. "Base Lundy's treachery meanwhile," goes an Orange song, "Had much for James effected/But found untrue, the traitor vile/From Derry was ejected." Annually burnt in effigy, Lundy is the

asked the bewildered Patricia.

"What's Lord Lundy got to do

Protestant history. Patricia's Lundy was the subject of a Hilaire Belloc Cau-

most vilified name in Ulster

alking over recent tionary Tale (based on Lord Northern Irish carry-on with a well-informed of a lachrymose politician: of a lachrymose politician: "Lord Lundy from his earliest years/Was far too freely moved to tears./For instance, if his mother said, Lundyl It's time to go to bed!'/He bellowed like a little Turk."

All of which goes to show that Ulster Protestants may be Ruth Dudley Edwards British but they are not Eng-

Last week I was on a late-night radio discussion about Northem Ireland. Beside me for two hours sat a silent young man with gimlet eyes who was accompanying the participat-ing Sinn Fein councillor. I thought at first he was just a minder, but I was told later by those in the know that he would have the additional function of making sure his man said nothing unacceptable. In Belfast youths like my silent neighbour are known as "Little Gerry Kellys", after the convicted terrorist who though not then part of the Sinn Fein delegation - used to attend meetings with ministers and officials and neither smile



nor speak. I prefer to give them the more attractive title of "Gerrybabies". But what a pity they are all such an emetic shade of green.

When I had a column on this paper last year, I reached the happy state of having much of it written by readers, so namrally, on being asked to stand in for Miles Kington, I sent SOSs to a batch of prolific ex-contributors (known generically as cives). Dennis Potter is right: cryogenic preservation works.
Thrilled though I am to

hear from them, I am worried about general elfish gloom. Lord Biro, for instance, provided a bitter denunciation of our government commencing:

Land of PurgaTory home of BSE. scoff your Sunday dinner

And Andrew Belsey, creak-ing under the weight of exam boards, contributed a twoliner called "What Feelgood Factor?": June has come and with it

yet I'm feeling even

There is nothing for it but to have a limerick competition with a bottle of pink champagne as the prize. I am squatting here only until Priday, so please let me have conclusions to "The chief delectation of summer" by post at the Independent tomorrow, or by fax to me at home at 0181-932 4829 by Wednesday night

In my final column last December, I appealed for suitable names for my friend Gordon Lee's artificial leg. When they came in, I sent all the responses to a delighted Gordon, who is anxious that they should now be offered to oth-

ers in need. Suggestions in-clude Patricia Dawson's Long John", Maeve Friel's Gordon's djinn" ("being of an order of spirits lower than the angels and capable of assuming human form"). William Hazell's "Ethelred the Unsteady" and Julia Macfarlane's "Galahad" or "Rohin" ("two great leg-ends").
In the end, being a rugged

individualist, Gordon named his own part: leg No 1 was known as Clump; its successor incorporated Gordon's initials and is "Glump". Both mun and leg are doing well.

I purchased five postcards at the Institute of Contemporary Acts with a view to bringing you up-to-dale throughout this week with what is amusing the avant garde. Today's - headed "NEW LABOUR PLC" shows a cross-looking woman 🧖 saying "God, these beggars are just so offensive when one is training to shop." "Never mind, darling," responds her partner. "The new Labour Party will soon clear the streets of the homeless so we can consume in a guilt-free environment."

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THE REPORT

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Marital breakdown is a fact of lite. Acceptable We are a nation of hypocrites when it comes to divorce. We should greet the removal of 'fault' as a rare liberal milestone over had the satisfaction of their day in court denousing in the divorce. The rew law is a fact of liter day in court denousing in the divorces are few and far between. The rew law is the family complete its milestone in the satisfaction of the family law Bill was a captured by saying and expensive liftingation to divorcing couples to the family law bill in the day in court denousing the court denousing againg and expensive liftingation to divorcing couples to the family law bill in the day in court denousing the court denousing

they took shame out of divorce. Social historians will use this convenient date to mark a milestone in changing public atti-tudes. This is why the Tory right have rebelled in such spectacular fashion. They are right to mark the symbolism of

What started as a minor technical adjustment has turned into a last-ditch moral battle. Lord Mackay has steered this vessel through battery from left and right. On and on he has sailed, pretending this is not a liberal measure on the grounds that that for nine out of 10 couples divorce will now take longer. New figures show that currently 40 per cent of divorcing couples complete the process in six months, 80 per cent within a year. Under the new law it will take every-

The new law will also require

but in one respect the moral critics of this Bill are right: this law is far more than the sum of its rum parts. It is a symbol of our changed times. A peculiar symbol since it has all been an extraordinary legislative mis-take. The Government, like time-share suckers, didn't know what it was signing up to. How easily it was bamboozled by the lawyers' talk of small technical tidying up procedures. It certainly did not read the small print that, by removing the notion of fault, has turned this into one of the few liberal milestones of a reactionary era.

to the institution of marriage, say the Tory rebels. If there is no sanction in divorce, what is marriage worth? It is already an easier contract to break than a car-hire agreement or renting a

This is a devilish death-blow

But what they can't see is that this is law just about catching up with the way people hehave. Right-wing social engineers imagine the law can bludgers people into living. bludgeon people into living and loving differently. It can't. This fine June, as you see cou-ples tripping into their white wedding cars, remember that more than half of them will divorce; no law is ever going to be able to stop them falling out of love and leaving home. There can scarcely be a person (common or Royal) in the land who has not had divorce or periods of single parenthood somewhere within their extended family. What sense can you make of a law that proclaims one partner "guilty" in all those failed marriages? Divorce law has become a

perfect example of a law abused and mocked. At the moment, couples can get a divorce after two years' separation if both are agreed. But they can get an instant divorce if one of them claims unreasonable behaviour



Change has been too fast for public attitudes to catch up, but they will.

ters of couples opt for the quick route, and those with children do so more than those withoot. This process often adds to the ill-will between them.

It has long been the practice for these cases not to be contested. However wronged one partner might feel by being accused of unreasonable behaviour, lawyers would sensibly advise them that there was no point at all in wasting money fighting it. One way or another, they would be divorced willynilly. Judges rubber-stamped the allegations and few partners

make of the quarrels played out before them? She abandoned the marital

home for her lover so He claimed She was to blame. She counter-claimed that He was a drunken monster and a phi-landerer to boot. He said he was driven to drink and into the arms of kinder women by Her outrageous temper - and on and on it went, wasting the court's time to no useful conclusion, beyond the obvious fact that somehow or another this marriage was at an end. Friends take sides and carnestly discuss between themselves which one was really to hlame, and there are as many different opinions as there are observers

of the marriage.
The bitterness is usually terrible and according to the London Marriage Guidance Council, one partner is nearly always left much angrier and more distressed than the other. Amica-

Widespread divorce signals profound social change. Its speed has left many people full of breathless social anxiety.

What will become of us once society's fundamental building block" has tumbled down". Each divorce viewed close up has its reasons. But when people contemplate the hig picture and the national figures, fits of social panie ensue. There is plenty to worry about - not least a rising social security bill paying for children unsup-ported by fathers. We have failed to deal with the purblems partly because policy-makers have expended too much energy on trying to turn the clock back, instead of dealing

We are left with a disjunction between what people do and what they say they believe should be. Public opinion is

with social circumstances as

tudes to catch up, but they will. And this divorce Bill will be seen in later years as a moment

was ditched. For the time being, the cheap press, whether the Daily Mail or the even cheaper Times, will certainly not abandon the concept of fault in divorce - of that we can be certain. Prurient newspapers will go on making high-handed judgements where Solomon fears to tread.

when some of that double-think

They will go on taking sides in order to victimise. The tale of the guilty party is just too good, embellished as it always must be with half truths and one-sided stories. Even when the concept of fault has been removed from the law, the cheap press will continue to relish its role as divorce court judge and jury - as I have learnt to my cost in the past 10

No bomb will shake my city's resolve

Manchester is shocked but not beaten by Saturday's bomb, writes Patrick Karney

To be honest, the bomb is a serious blow to Man-chester. We have been trying for some years now to position ourselves in the European market as a European city by publicising our success as a trading and entertainment centre, and using sports and arts to mprove the image of Manchester. It was all set to come together this weekend, with a carnival to accompany the Euro 96 match between Germany and Russia.

The city was filled with German and Russian visitors on Saturday night, and the evening should have been one of the most exciting in years. Instead. when I walked through the city that night, it was just dead and soulless. Now we have thousands of shocked and confused tourists - some of whom have been shut out of their accommodation - who had just come

to Manchester for a good time. Of course it could have been so much worse. Hive a few hundred yards from where the bomb was placed, and I saw the smoke and glass go up. There could so easily have been hundreds dead, as the bomb was left calculatedly in one of the husiest parts of the city. Personally, I cannot believe that they left it where they did. These cowardly barbarians should not in hell for what they have done.

The IRA may try to salve their consciences by saying they give notice of these hombs, but anyone could have leant against that van and triggered an explosion while the streets were full. In any case, it is only because we had hundreds of extra police on duty to cope with Euro 96 that there was the manpower available to evacuate people as quickly as was done.

For lots of families, it will take a long time for this trauma and stress to depart. People are quite sad now, and we know that there is going to he a serious drop of confidence in the city - and in other British cities. too - among those who shop, chester will bounce back. The challenge is to rebuild confidence in the city, and we will put the huilding blocks in place to meet that challenge.

The writer is chairman of the City Centre Committee of Manchester City Council.



A new report suggests that by slowing cars down, we can all get about more quickly and safely. Christian Wolmar explains

s we prepare ourselves to face the holiday traffic jams, made worse by the sunny weather, an engaging and radical thought comes from the Institute of Policy Studies. The anthors of a new book, Speed Control and Transport Policy, suggest it may be faster to go slower. It is not as illogical as it sounds. Already this idea has been accepted

by the Department of Transport in relation to motorways. The busiest devices that can vary the speed limit so that when the road is particularly busy it is reduced from 70mph to 60 or 55. And hey presto, more cars are able to use it, as the stop-start effect of people speeding up and then being forced to brake is dissipated. Other motorways are being similarly fitted

with these signs.

The PSI pair, Stephen Plowden and Mayer Hillman, go further by suggesting that the effect could also work in urban areas. Researchers in Vaxio, Sweden, found that the traffic flowed more smoothly at junctions when the speed limit was reduced because there

was less stopping and starting. Moreover, any time lost by some motorists would be partially made up by pedestrians gaining time as crossing roads became easier and involved fewer detours - in general, one person's lost time is another person's gain. For years, that equation has been weighted in favour of the motorist rather than the pedestrian. Indeed, in the cost-benefit calculations used to assess the value of road schemes, the time saved by motorists is assigned a value of around

£7 per hour. But pedestrians' extra time is not counted as a disbenefit. That is why we have those ridiculous bridges over some dual carriageways where pedestrians are supposed to spend five minutes walking up spiral staircases to a height of 30 feet or more, simply to

During the long rise and rise of the motor car, society lost its sense of proportion. Rather than being a means to an end - easier travel - cars became the centrepiece of transport policy.

By changing the hierarchy between cars and pedestrians we can transform urban society

The space in towns was turned around to accommodate the motor car rather than the people in them. One-way systems were created to speed it along its way, while other road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, were designed out of large swathes of urban areas. Barriers were erected to hem pedestrians in; traffic lights were installed to allow them to cross the road only for a few seconds every couple of minutes and high streets were turned into urban clearways as traffic was given priority at every opportunity. Speed became an end in itself. Little thought was given to the downsides, not only the casualties, but the degradation of

the environment caused by fast cars.

to reconsider this set of priorities. Instead of allowing cars to whizz about unfettered around towns, the authors suggest a speed limit of 20mph or 15mph. Outside towns, the authors want to see a 55mph speed limit as the most optimal between reducing the casualty rate and ensuring that road transport is still economic. The limits would all be enforced by speed limiters, similar to those fitted to lorries and coaches, which could be set to different speeds in towns or outside.

speed limits in residential areas are enormous. People, particularly the old and the young, would be freed to reclaim the streets. No longer would anxious parents have to accompany their children to school, old ladies would be able to walk to the shops again and children would be able to play in the streets safely. As a result of the streets becoming more used by people, crime would fall and communities would be revived.

Outside towns, the benefits are mostly in the form of reduced road casualties, but there would be environmental gains, too, through reduced fuel consumption.

Plowden and Hillman deny that they are being idealistic or outlandish They are not suggesting that some people will not still resort to their cars even for ridiculously short trips to the shops. They accept that cars will remain an integral part of society's desire for mobility. But just by changing the hierarchy between cars and pedestrians, which has evolved without thought or debate, urban society The PSI book argues that it is time will be transformed.



In answer to suggestions that all these ideas are merely the musings of radical transport planners, Mr Plowden replies: "Things are changing. Only a few years ago, walking and cycling were at the bottom of transport priorities. Now it is accepted that they should be at the centre of any transport policy." He adds that public opinion was ahead of the views of politicians in realising that the current use of cars was unsustainable. Many people involved in transport policy-making already support views similar to those of the

authors. into effect, suggest that after initial nuc, £14,95.

antipathy they become very popular In York, the hierarchy of transport has been turned round, giving pride of place to pedestrians and cyclists, followed by public transport, and finally the individual car.

Indeed, visitors from abroad frequently comment on how traffic has been able to dominate the urban environment in most of our cities in a way that is now unthinkable in the cities of Holland or Germany. There is nothing to lose except our obsession with

Speed Control and Transport Policy', by Experience from towns such as Mayer Hillman and Stephen Plowden.

York where these ideas have been put is published by the Policy Studies Insti-

Southwark: eight small projects, one big vision

The anticipated arrival of the new Tate Gallery has sparked a novel plan for improving public spaces

ram in the column the London borough of Southwark is carrying out an experiment in improving its streets and public space. It is turning away from the big undertaking and embracing step-by-step improvement. There is dechining enthusiasm for wholesale demolition to build big leisure centres, huge shopping malls and new roads in between. Having used them, we can see that they were too often based upon wrong assumptions about economic growth and about our wants and needs. Southwark's new approach, if it succeeds, could be enormously influential.

Southwark's most revolutionary decision may be to have dispensed with a master plan. Instead it has invited eight design teams to make proposals for different parts of the borough. There is no lead designer. Each team starts with what exists in the area it has been allocated. And these starting points are a fas-

cinating mixture of ancient streets, Victorian brutalism and 20th century blandness. Southwark was once the entertainment district of London. Across the Thames via London Bridge, beyond the control of the City authorities, there were dozens of

After the priories were dissolved and the theatres and bears gardens demolished, Southwark settled down into an area of wharves and warehous brewing, engineering, small-scale industry and craft workers. Dickens' parents were in the Mar-shalsea Debtors Prison and the great

novelist's first job was in a Southwark blacking factory at the age of 12 years. The old inns described in Pickwick Papers were in the High Street. Then came the railways, pushed through Southwark with so little regard for what lay in their paths that the Waterloo to London Bridge line almost touches Southwark Cathedral. They were followed in later decades by commercial property developers who erected cheap office accommodation. Today the authentic scene in old Southwark is a vast railway viaduct with multifarious activities conducted under the arches, surrounded by 20th century commercial and light industrial property still more or less aligned with the medieval street plan.

The trigger for Southwark's initiative is the arrival in the borough shortly of the Tate Gallery of Modern Art. From every point of view but one, rowdy inns, women of the "stews" or brothels, bowling, bear baiting, gambling and theatres like the Globe.

this is a big project, expected to attract three million visitors each year. The common feature is opening up this is a further example of this. We would wark's experime deserves notice.



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

a new structure. It is the old Bankside power station. While it is being modified to accommodate pictures rather than turbines, its past will not be disguised. This same approach is to be taken by the eight design teams. They cannot propose clearing an area and starting again. They are asked to analyse what already exists and suggest modifications. They are required to give priority to public transport and pedestrian access over cars, to find ways of making public spaces safer and to improve the look of them. And they must consult local residents and workers thoroughly and regularly.

The plans are now being exhibited in Southwark Street for the next five weeks in a converted car-wash building. A common feature is opening up

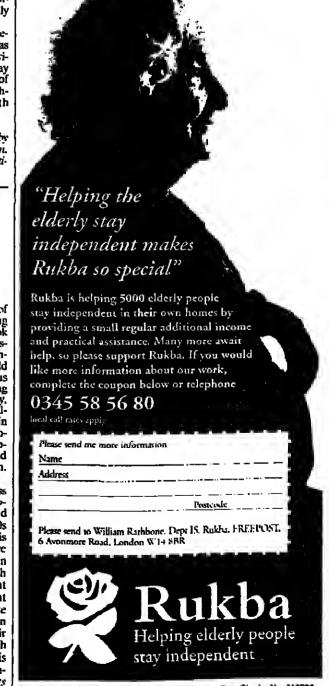
Another is re-working the railway viaducts. One proposal is to suspend them from pylons so that the space underneath can be properly used. The design teams have also thought a lot about creating new pedestrian routes. For instance, it is suggested that a new walkway, described as a canopy of lights, should be driven right through the middle of a large, exceedingly boring 1950s-style office block due to be demolished in a few years. Most of all, I like the schemes for indi-

vidual streets. The robustness and diversity of the average busy street, with its minume of offices, shops, pubs, cinemas as well as remnants of the past in the shape of bits of wall, pavement, elaborate door frame, cohbled entrance and so on are preserved. The design improvements start with street furniture, lighting and signposting. This is applying tender loving care to the street. During this process it finally becomes clear what is truly tatty and ugly and beyond treatment - and for which replacement may be the best answer.

This shifting of the debate about the right way to improve our cities is a sign of the times. The difficulty of finding

towards Southwark Cathedral. improving the intricate mechanisms of daily life than on doing something monumental. Some time ago, I took part in a well-organised series of discussions whose purpose was to identify and carry forward a suitably bold initiative. We examined numerous suggestions, but nothing convincing emerged. Now most of us, surely, would be relieved if the proposed Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich in London didn't take place. Local people would care because the development would create a lot of jobs and bring much business to the borough. But the rest of us?

The truth is that we are much less interested than we were in grand pro-jets such as those President Mitterrand carried out in Paris during the 1980s which caused so much envy on this side of the Channel. In any case we have not always been successful in doing them, Both the new British Library building and the enlargement of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden are cases in point. These ambitious concepts have often appeared to be collapsing under their own weight. The characteristic British preference for pragmatic solutions is reasserting itself. That is why Southwark's experiment in petus projets



The Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association. Reg. Charity No. 210729

Ella Fitzgerald

"Man, woman and child," said Bing Crosby, "Ella Fitzgerald is the greatest.

At the conclusion of a recital in Washington, the distin-guished accompanist Gerald Moore and the German Lieder and opera singer Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau left the hall hurriedly and rushed to the airport to catch a plane to New York. They made their way to Carnegie Hall where Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington were about to give a concert. "Ella and the Duke together!" enthused Fischer-Dieskau to Moore, "One just doesn'l know when there might be a chance

to hear that again!" "I never knew how good our songs were," said Ira Gershwin said, "until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them." No exaggeration here, and indeed Elia popped out definitive versions of songs as easily as a baker making bread. She could take songs that were nn good and give them worth. She invariably hit the jazz musician's ultimate target - to leave a song improved from the

composer's original version. Ella Fitzgerald was a singer who moved easily and seamlessly between popular music and jazz. She must rank with Bing Crosby in terms of her influence upon other singers. She had an enormous range, perfect pitch and unusually clear diction, and there was little in the way of histrionics in her performances. Ballads were treated with poise and sensitivity but her voice had too much of a happy sound to deliver much in the way of tragedy and grief. Her effervescent scat singing showed her phrasing like a trumpet or a saxophone would and, using this style, she traded choruses in jam sessions with Stan Getz, Roy Eldridge, Lester Young and all of the stars in Norman Granz's Jazz At The Philharmonic (JATP) unit with which she worked for so many years.

The milestones in her career were many, but among her special gifts to us were the Song Book albums, wherein, thanks to Granz, she was able to record most of the finest songs in American popular music with backing provided by the best arrangers and orchestras available. And another treasure, quite different, was the series of jam-session-like alhums she made in tandem with Louis Armstrong in 1956 and 1957. Again these were for Granz's Verve label, and this time he included Oscar Peterson and Buddy Rich amongst her ac-

companists.
The Song Books, recorded in the Fifties and Sixties, were ususuccessful "singles" of Ella's career were two tracks from the finally they hid me in his

Song Books, "Ev'ry Time Wo Say Goodbye" and "Manhal-tan". Attempts to continue the series in later years were undistinguished in comparison with. the originals.

Elia was a shy person who never adjusted to the fame and acclaim she was showered with for so many years. Nor could she reconcile the idea that she had done anything to earn her plaudits. She hated to be interviewed and was terrified at the thought of controversy. She was happiest sitting at home watching soaps on the television. And yel I cannot forget the image of her in a communal JATP dressing-room trying to read a book by Sartre whilst amongst other disruptions I was trying to interview Stan Getz; Dizzy Gillespie and Roy Eldridge were shouting and laughing together; Coleman Hawkins was warming up on his tenor sax, and Getz was calling for a bottle opener.

She never knew her father, nor the town of Newport News where she was born in 1917 (not 1918 as was later claimed), but had a happy childhood in Yonkers, New York, where she was raised by her mother and stepfather. An early fascination with show-business led her to take up dancing, but on her first entry to a talent concert at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem in 1934 she decided to sing. She sang "Judy" well enough to win and her performance was so good that the saxophone player Benny Carter and the en-trepreneur John Hammond who were in the audience took her to see the handleader Fletcher Henderson.

"I guess he wasn't too im-pressed," Ella said. "He said Don't call me, I'll call you!" But somehody at CBS Radio had heard her and contracts were drawn up for her to appear on a show with Arthur Tracy, "the Street Singer". This was potentially a huge opportunity, as Tracy's was one of the most popular shows on radio at the time. At the crucial moment the booking collapsed with the death of Ella's mother. Orphaned and a minor, she had nobody to take the legal responsibility of signing a contract for her, and within a few days she returned to the amateur talent contest circuit. Despite the success of her subsequent career, Ella's most vivid memory of her life was of a talent contest at the Lafayette Theatre in Harlem when she was booed off stage. Ella worked her first profes-

sional week for \$50 at the Harlem Opera House where she sang with Tiny Bradshaw's band. The Chick Webb band folally double albums, each being lowed Bradshaw into the devoted to the music of one theatre. In performance Wohl composer. The finest of them remained behind his drums was that made up from the mu- and the band was fronted by the sic of Harold Arlen whose songs showman / comedian Bardu suited Ella best. Others used the Ali. Ali and Benny Carter urged songs of George Gershwin, Chick to add Ella to the band. Johnny Mercer, Richard But the diminutive drummer Rodgers, Jerome Kern, Cole would have none of it, happy Porter, Irving Berlin and Duke with the nondescript male Ellington. Among the nine most crooner he had hired. "He just



Ella Fitzgerald in the early 1940s; she invariably improved on the composer's original song

dressing-room and forced him to listen. He agreed to take me on a one-nighter to Yale the next day. Tiny and the chorus girls had all kicked in to buy me a gown. The following week we opened at the Savoy Ballroom." The Webb band, with Ella,

stayed at the Savoy and made history, riding the crest of Harlem's passion for dancing and reputedly playing totally irresistible jazz music. At an early stage Chick became Ella's guardian. Both recorded for Decca, and File's contract with the company was long and hinding. Ella made her first record ("Love and Kisses") with Webb in 1935. Most famous among her many hits with the Webb band was "A-Tisket A-Tasket, My Little Yellow Basket", a child's novelty song recorded in 1938. By the time Webb died in

1939 Ella had made such a in the vernacular, she knocked to manage the sessions. But the name for herself with both the public and her fellow musicians that she was able to takethe spot. over the band and lead it for the She stayed with him for the next two years. But such was her drawing power that she decided to work as a solo artist and further contracts were neces-

Home" reinforced her international reputation. Her marriage to the great jazz all her contributions from his sebassist Ray Brown lasted from ries of JATP concert albums, 1948 to 1952. In 1948, Brown and it was not until 1955 that she was a member of Granz's JATP was finally able to leave Decca unit and Ella turned up at one and sing for Verve. of the concerts to see him. She

everybody out, including Granz who offered her a contract on

rest of her career and their relationship was so good that no began appearing in cabaret and sary. But the contract with Decin theatres. Decca made the castill had years to run. Granz most of their contract and her wanted Ella to record for his Be Good' instead. When she jazz versions of numbers like own Verve label, but try as he came offstage she yelled at me, "Lady Be Good" and "Flying might he could not release her and I yelled louder at her, and from the Decca agreement. For several years he had to cut out er for three days. Some night I

Granz became her personal was spotted in the audience, and somebody asked her to sing on most of the time in Switzerland. stage. Granz grudgingly agreed to let her. Ella sang so well that, would fly to the United States

Photograph: William Gottlieb / Redferns

two had their disagreements, as was natural in such a long relationship. "I remember one time in Milan," Granz said, "she

wouldn't sing 'April In Paris', even though it was her big record of the time: she let the audience shout her into 'Lady we didn't speak to one anothmay tell her to do six songs, hut she feels good and goes out there and stays on for an hour and a half. It's part of her whole approach to life - the desire to sing and please people for a week."

by singing."
In 1955 Ella and Peggy Lee

singing than on the shooting. This was a marvellous platform for the two singers. Ella also had a role in the film Ler No Man Write My Epitaph

One of Granz's few failures in music was his handling of Duke Ellington when Duke and his band were under contract to him at periods during the Fifties and Sixties. It seems the two men did not get on well. Despite the fact that the band was at one of its musical peaks, Duke's work for Granz, although good, was compara-tively unsuccessful. Shortly after it had recorded the inspired Shakespearian suite "Such Sweet Thunder" for Columbia in 1957, Granz teamed the

Ellington orchestra with Ella Fitzgerald to record the Duke Ellington Song Book albums. The results were good hul flawed and not a match for the other Song Book alhums Ella had recorded. "It was a panic scene," she said, "with Duke almost making up the arrangements as we went along. Duke is a genius. I admire him as much as anyone in the world: hut doing it that way, even though it was a tot of fun at times, got to be kind of nerve-

More care was taken with a 1965 collaboration when Granz enlisted the arranger / pianist Jimmy Jones to prepare every-thing in advance. The following year Ella and the Ellington band toured Europe together and a film was made of their performance as the main attraction at the Antibes jazz festival. Ella sang all over the world during the Sixties and toured regularly in Latin America, Europe and the Far East.

Her career was interrupted in 1971 when she had surgery for serious eye trouble, and she cut down on her appearances from then until 1973. But she did sing with the Boston Pops Orchesless than 40 different symphony orchestras. Granz recorded Ella in every

conceivable situation, usually with great artistic success. She was equally at home in front of the Count Basie band or with the simple and tasteful solo backing of Joe Pass's guitar. Granz insisted that she be treated with the respect he knew she deserved and chose her recitals with care. One of the most unusual settings, for such a puller of huge crowds, was the confined room of the Ronnie Scott sang in the summer of 1974.

was distressed by an article in remains on record for future Life magazine in which Frank Sinatra gave his assessment of his contemporaries. "Frank said I didn't know how to breathe right and that my phrasing was all wrong. I was so upset about that that I really couldn't sing

She continued to respond to the enormous demand for her appeared in the gangster film during the Eighties and the riage dissolved 1952); died Beverlete Kelly's Blues where the quality of her recordings re-

emphasis was laid more on the mained prodignously high. excepting one ill-conceived collaboration on an album of Gershwin tunes which had her accompanied by Andre Previn on piano. Although she never noised her philanthropy, it came out during this time that she paid for the maintenance of a day care centre in Wars, the slum area of Los Angeles.

It was thought that her career had ended in 1986 when she was admitted to intensive care with beart trouble, but after a long recuperation she returned in 1988 with concerts at the Hollywood Bowl and in Carnegic Hall and stole the show with her swinging finale to ABC-TV's tribule to Sammy Davis Jnr.

On 12 February 1992 one of the most illustrious collections of jazz musicians ever assembled came together for "Hearts for Ella", a benefit for the American Heart Association at New York's Lincoln Centre. The jazz musicians included Dizzy Gillespie, Clark Terry, Red Rodney, David Sanborn, Oscar Peterson, Stan Getz, Phil Woods, Joe Wilder, Herb Ellis, Ray Brown. George Shearing and Louise Bellson, and the band was led by Benny Carter. the man who first discovered her. Ella duetted with the vialinist Itzhak Perlman who, with Lena Horne, introduced the

She suffered from severe diabetes in her last years and sang from a wheelchair at Carnegic Hall the next year when she was joined by Joe Temperley, Eddic Barefield and once again Benny Carter. As her illness worsened she had to have first one and then the uther of her legs removed.

By now her voice was not as smooth as it had been, but some thought this, which some-how lifted the feeling of infallibility and thus predictability in her singing, to be an improve-ment. "I love giving concerts," she said. "Doesn't weaken me, strengthens me. I look out there tra in 1972, and during the next three years worked with no at the audience, especially the young ones. I feel the love they give me and I try to give it back with my songs. She toured again in the first half of 1990 but suffered dehydration and had to return home to rest.

Of her late work Norman . Granz wrote, "Ella's voice has clearly changed, ns has her range. But it has acquired a deeper and richer quality over the years. Most importantly, her mastery of time remains unparalleled." It seems likely that her career will also remain unparalleled, for there is no need Club in London, where she for anyone to try tu do again what she did so well and we Very sensitive to criticism, she must be glad that so much of it generations to savour.

Perhaps her epitaph should be the title of a piece Duke Ellington wrote to celcbrate her, "Beyond Category".

Steve Voce

304

11:11:

Ella Fitzgerald, singer: born Newport News, Virginia 25 April 1917; married 1948 Ray Brown (marriage dissolved 1952); died Beverly

Dr Arthur Hughes

Dr Arthur Hughes was known as the Schweitzer of Assam, He was an unassuming medical missionary who, in his 30 years in the Khasi Hills, north-east In-dia, from 1939 to 1969, made the Welsh Mission Hospital in Shillong a beacon of hope for rich and poor alike. They flocked to his out-patient clinics and to be operated on

Hughes gave up a hrilliant academic career at Liverpool University and the Hospitals of Liverpool (Northern and Southern) to be a medical mis-

sionary. His parents, the Rev Howell Harris Hughes and Mrs Myfanwy Hughes, were keenly interested in the missionary witness, and were well acquainted with their denomination's involvement in Assam since 1841. From its early days the Church had been unable to send many medical missionaries. Arthur Hughes was the seventh. When he applied in 1938 there was rejoicing that Dr Gordon Roberts would have a helping hand at the hospital he

had established in 1922. Arriving in 1939 in Shillong

Births.

Marriages & Deaths

with his wife Nancy, Hughes was soon involved in the work, and in 1942 took over from Roberts as well as caring for the wounded of the Burma Road. He achieved miracles in that period, from 1942 to 1945, treating thousands of Indian, British and American wounded officers and mcn.

Hughes raised the standards of midwifery, as well as teaching one of his staff, Dr Drinsing Hynniewta, the skills of maternity surgery so that he hecame well known throughout India; he revolutionised the

life of the Bboi villagers, succeeding to a remarkable extent procinaemia. in eradicating malaria, and set up a travelling dispensary which later became the beginning of the Rural Health Cen-

Hughes had many firsts to his name - he was the first surgeon in morth India to introduce the first to recognise rickets in the infant population of the Khasi-Jainta hills, and the first doctor in Assam to recognise protein calorie deficiency which

He was a surgeon of exceptional qualities, kind, with a deep religious faith, and during his leadership the Mission Hos-pital in Shillong became one of the greatest medical institutions in India. A tireless activist, he served at least a dozen sovagus nerve resection in the cial, medical, nursing, welfare treatment of duodenal ulcers, organisations, and the inhabitants of Shillong still remember the fact that their Blood Bank was created by him.

He was also a leader in the religious life of the people,

serving as an cider from 1944, and the Shillongites in their hundreds, as well as the hillmen, met on 14 May 1969 to bid the Hugheses farewell. Fortunately he was able to revisit them on two occasions, and to address a congregation of nearly 300,000 in the open air at the 150th anniversary of the foundation of

the mission work in 1991. The following year he was elected Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Wales, an honour he shared with his twin hrother, the Rev John Harris Hughes of Pontypridd,

who was elected some 17 years

Robert Arthur Hughes, medical missionary: born Oswestry 3 December 1910; John Rankin Fellow in Human Anatomy, Liverpool University 1934-35; FRCS (England) 1937; Senior Medical Officer, Khasi Hills Welsh Mission Hospital 1942-69; OBE 1962: Sub Dean in the Faculty of Medicine, Liverpool University 1969-76; married 1939 Nancy Wright (one son); died Liverpool 1 June



BIRTHS

BALL: On 14 June, in Christchurch, New Zealand, to Miles and Jenni, a son, David, Brother for Saskia and

NECHOLLS: On 13 June 1996, aged 60 years, David Gwyn, of Littlemore Vicarage. Much loved as a hasbond, brother, friend, Pastor, and teacher, and by his large extended family, Requiem mass at SS Mary Virgin and Nicholas Church, Littlemore, Oxford, on Thursday 20 June, at 2pm. Flowers to Reeves and Pain, 288 Abington Road, Oxford OX1 4TE. PICKARD: Suddenly, on 9 June, at home, Giles Jonathan, beloved brother of Tim, Jane and Stephen, and much loved uncle. Funeral service, Lambeth Crematorium, Blackshaw Road, London SW17, on Thesday 18 June at 3pm. Donations if desired to Jonathan, Colin, William and Dominic. Formerly Major, TA Wores. Regr. Area Sec. Toch (East Anglia); Curate of Weeke, near Winchester; Vicar of Pennington, Hampshire; Vicar of Maybush, Hampshire; Rural Dean of Southampton, and Honomry Canon. Winchester Cathedral. Faneral Service at St Nicholas Church, Little Bowden, on Thursday 20 June at 9.30am, Donations, if desired, for Christian Aid, RNLI, or Marie Curie Cancer Care.

June at 3pm. Donations if desired to Sightsavers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind), Grosvenor Hall, Bolnore Road, Haywards Heath,

RABAN: The Rev Canon James Peter Caplin Prizuh, on 15 June, at home, in Market Harborough, after a short illness. Husband of Monice; father of

as Geisal Prote, the Order of St John, opens the new Northemberland Hendquarters, Novemberle, opens for rehabilited Rhydon Youth Calo, Blaydon on Roses and thinkney of worders furnisary at Beliany ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Dule of Whithmaph tyre a Corter Lundmen in the Waterdon Chatther, Wachter Cattle, and attend a Service for the Order of the Genera at Se George's Chapel. The Princent Royal effects in needing of the George College Autonomy Chancel, induced by Chance, at Guova Chalge, Robbilli Churrantoy, Chook Dule Chart (Down Chalge, Robbilli Churrantoy, Chook Dule Dule of George College Autonomy Chart (North Emi Civic Text, visits the Thest at MEA House, Newtsate spins Truet, visits the Vasual Arts UK 1996 Exhibition, "The Colden And of Woorthunder's and ourse the late of the Section And Section College Changing of the Guard The Household Creaky Manuscel Regiment atoms: the Queen's Life Geard at Horse Guerds, Haust La Buttalion Welth Guards againsts the Queen's Gastro.

Birthdays Mr Donald Anderson MP, 57; Lord Barber of Tewkesbury, environment consultant. 78; Mr Simon Bowes Lyon, Lord-Lieutenant of Hert-

fordshire, 64: Sir Michael Caine, for-mer chairman, Booker plc. 69; Mr mer charman, Booker pic. 69; Nr Nicholas Cook, cricketer, 40; Sir William Dale, legal consultant, 90; Sir Edward Downes, conductor, 72; Dr Sir Patrick Duffy, former MP, 76; Mrs Laura Duncan, Sheriff of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, 49; Sir Patrick Italy, 60: Mr Derek Ibbotson, athlete. 64; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Le Cheminant, former Lieutenant Governor of Gnernsey, 76; Mr Ken Livingstone MP, 51; Mr Kenneth Loach, film director, 60; Mr Hugh MacMahon, MEP, 58; Mr Barty Manilow, singer, 50; Mr Anthony Marlow MP, 56; Miss Estelle Morris MP, 44; Miss Beryl Reid, actress, 76; Lt-Col Aidan

Autouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATRS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Sprot, farmer and former Lord-Lieutenant of Tweeddale, 77, Mr Bri-Memoriann) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Lon-don E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faxed to 0171-293 2016, and are an Statham, cricketer, 66; Captain Roderick Stirling of Fairburn, Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty and charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). Skye and Lochakh, 64; Sir Maldwyn Thomas, former president, Welsh Liberal Party, 78; Professor Sir Alan Walters, political economist, 70.

Anniversaries

Births: John Wesley, evangelist, 1703; Dean Martin, singer and actor, 1917. Deaths: Dornthy Miller Richardson, novelist, 1957; John

1963. On this day: the American War of Independence began, 1775; apartheid was ended in South Africa, 1991. Today is the Feast Day of St Adolph. St Antidius, St Avitus or Avy of Perche, St Bessarion, Saints Bot-Reports. of Ferche, St Bessarios. Saints Doi-ulph and Adulph, St Emily de Vialar, St Gregory Barbarigo, St Herve or Herveus of Brittany, St Hypatius, St Molling, St Nectan, Saints Nican-der and Marcian and St Teresa of

Schools

King's College School, Wimbledon The following elections have been made by King's College School, Wimbledon, for September 1996: Major Scholar: Samuel Draper (Newland

Majer Scholari Samuel Draper (Newjand House).
Scholars: Mark Datta (King's College Jander School); Jetemy Vooght (RCIS, Modern Language Award); Nayemul Chowdbury (RCIS); Alastoir Cox (RCIS); John Messent (RCIS, Classics Award); Kamran Rabbani (Language).

(Homeheid).
Exhibitionern: David Edwards (KCJS);
Thurnas Miller (KCJS); Michal Tymicniecki
(Rokeby); Harry Reurdot (KCJS); Nikhi Oza
(Rokeby); Matthew Warren (The Mall);
Alusander Milner South (KCJS); Ali Murad
(KCJS); Alex Gardner (Homefield). Mosic Scholarz: Samuel Draper (Newland House); William Edwards (KCIS); Mark Lowen (KCIS); Soung Won Park (KCIS).

Jurier School Scholars: Buzy Murphy (West-bury House, New Mahden); Simon Hawtin (Westbury House, New Malden); Kirthi Varotheyahingam (Devombire Primary, Sut-ton); Mark Peterzan (KCJS). KCS (charity number 310024) exists to provide education for children.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the re-porters of the All England Law

Compensation Porter v Secretary of State for Transport; CA (Stuart-Smith, Peter Gibson,

Thorpe LJJ) 16 May 1996. The issue by the Environment Secretary of a certificate of appropriate alternative development, on an appeal to him under s 18 of the Land Com-pensation Act 1961, could not give rise either to an issue estoppel or estoppel per rem ju-dicatem which would hind the claimants and the acquiring authority (the Transport Secretary) in a subsequent assessment of compensation before the Lands Tribunal. Michael Barnes QC, Christopher

Katkowski (Treasury Solicitor) for the Transport Secretary, Malcolm Spence QC, Nicholas Nardeochia (Raoks Rider) for the respondents.

Defamation Stern v Piper, CA (Hirst, Steen a mandatory duty to discharge Brown L.IJ, Sir Raiph Gibson) 21 May

CASE SUMMARIES

17 June 1996

to prove that he was merely re-peating what he had been told, tended deferment only to apdid not apply to the publication of extracts from an affirmation in a pending lawsuit. Although such a report of statements was essentially hearsay, and therefore prima facie within the rule, reports of affidavits or other court documents were not proto defer. tected by privilege in the same way as reports of proceedings in open court. The judge erred in refusing to strike out the dofendants' plea of justification; Murder the defence of justification

was not available. James Price QC (Manches & Co) for the plaintiff: David Early QC, Manuel Barca (Mishcon de Reya) for the defendants.

Mental health R v Mental Health Review Tribunal ex p Pierce; QBD (Rarrison J) 20 May

Where the tribunal was under a patient under s 72(1)(h)(iii) of the Mental Health Act 1983,

ply to discretionary discharges, it would have so specified. But the court had grave misgivings as to whether a deforment during which a patient might receive treatment to which they were opposed, would be a lawful exercise of the power

Debbie Taylor (Galbraith Branley) for the applicant; Neil Garnham (Treasury Solicitor) for the respondent.

Lamey v The Queen; PC (Lard Keith, Lord Griffiths, Lord Jauncey, Lord Nicholis, Lord Steya) 29 May 96. A murder was committed in the course or furtherance of an act of terrorism, under s 2(1)(f) of the Offences Against the Person Law 1864 (as amended) of Jamaica, and was thus a capital murder, if the murderer had the double intent to murder and to create a state of fear in the public or a section thereof. The subsection did not

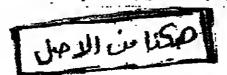
pened to be created in those who saw it take place or heard of it. Owen Davies, Raza Husain (Simons

Muirhead & Burton) for the appellant; James Guthric QC (Charles Russell) for

Planning Cudogan v McCarthy & Stone (Developments! Ltd: CA (Butler-Sions, Saville LJL Douglas Brown Jt 16 May

Where landlords had to show that there was a reasonable prospect of obtaining planning permission, a reasonable prospect meant a real chance, a prospect that was strong enough to be acted on by a reasonable landlord minded to go ahead with plans which required permission, as opposed to a prospect that should be treated as murely fanciful or one that should sensibly be ignored by a reasonable landford. In concluding that the landlords were more likely than not to get permission the judge ap-plied the wrong test.

Educard Bannaser QC, Gin Fickers (Se-The repetition rule, that it they could still direct that disapply to a murder committed was no defence to an action for charge be deferred under s defamation for the defendant of the Parliament in the victim whereby fear hap-



business

Hopes that Carpetright can continue its roll as pundits turn bearish

Tomorrow it will be possible to judge whether Carpetright is still on a roll. The second time around creation of Lord Harris, fund raiser for the Tories and carpet salesman extraordinary, is expected to produce another rousing profit performance.

The stock market is looking for a year's outcome near £27m against the £19.7m last time.

There have been fears the carpet retailing group could be a ca-sualty of the building downturn which has hit so many retailers including the do-it-yourself sheds. But Carpetright has achieved a surprising ability to ignore such humdrum hindrances with profits making spectacular headway from £2.8m in 1992.

It came to the stock market at 148p three years ago; the shares closed on Friday a little below their 624p peak.

Lord Harris, as plain Phil Harris, created the old Harris profits collapse he was forced out and the company was taken unities will be down." over by a consortium headed, by supermarket entrepreneur Junmy Gulliver, in a £477m leveraged buy out.

But HQ, renamed Lowndes Queensway, collapsed with debts of more than £200m.

Carpetright had a 116 shops chain, put together over four years, when it made its market début. It is now mudging 250 out-lets embracing the core Carpetright operation plus Premier Carpets, with concessions in other people's stores, and Carpet Depot, a superstore concept.
Although making headway,
the market had another

uneventful session last week; the results of the Russian election could be a significant factor this week.

The influential Schwartz stock market newsletter is becoming increasingly convinced the bull market is over. It says:

Although they have lost some of their emberance recently, an outstanding feature of the market this year has been secondand third-line shares which have generally outperformed the

more illustrious blue chips.

But the newsletter, the work of David Schwartz operating from Stroud in Gloucestershire. even pours caution on the cult second liners.

It points out that small companies generally outscore blue chips in the opening months of a year. "But the trend soon anges for the worse. Over the last 15 years small caps significantly under-perform the big boys for the rest of the year. If 1996 continues to follow the norm, we suspect that profits from small caps in the months ahead may disappoint those hoping for above-average per-



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

A sharp dividend increase to.

say. 10p a share is looked for and

there are strong hopes BS's cash heard will prompt it into some form of distribution - a

share buy back or a more share-

holder friendly special dividend.

After last year's profit feast BS is set to suffer a few lean years.

£578m.

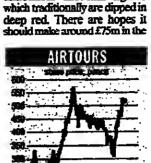
progress. "In the short term other with the shares on its sell there remains scope for equities to be boosted by signs of list, is on £990m. Bardays de Zoete Wedd aims strengthening activity in the for £1.097bn and Société economy - so long as Wall Street manages to hold its Générale Strauss Tumbull is top of the range, shooting for £1.15bn. Last year's figure was

Further out, however, the environment for both gilts and equities is likely to become tougher."

Biggest company reporting this week is British Steel, with year's results today. Destocking and a slowdown in European in-dustrial production has prompted many analysts to lower their expectations. Even so, the outturn should look impressive. Nat West Securities, a long time bear of the shares, is looking for

should indicate on Wednesday whether the sharp cutbacks it (and its rivals) made to their programmes this year have restored profits to the level the

market expects. The company, where the American Carnival Cruise group now has a near 30 per cent stake. nnounces first-half figures



year which ends in September. The relationship between the US and US boliday groups is in-triguing. Carnival is just a shade below the level which triggers a bid obligation under the takeover code. Although both

sides insist they are happy with this arrangement there is a wide spread belief that in the fullness of time the Americans could move for full control. Hazlewood Foods, due tomorrow, has been an unrewarding investment since it started its restructuring six years ago. The shares are more than half their 1990 value. Still, in-

> the figure was £32.3m but exceptional charges left the group with a wounding deficit. Utilities continue to grace the results diary. Northern Electric is heavily geared after its distri-butions to shareholders follow-

> terim profits were higher and

there are hopes it could manage

£33.5m. for the year. Last time

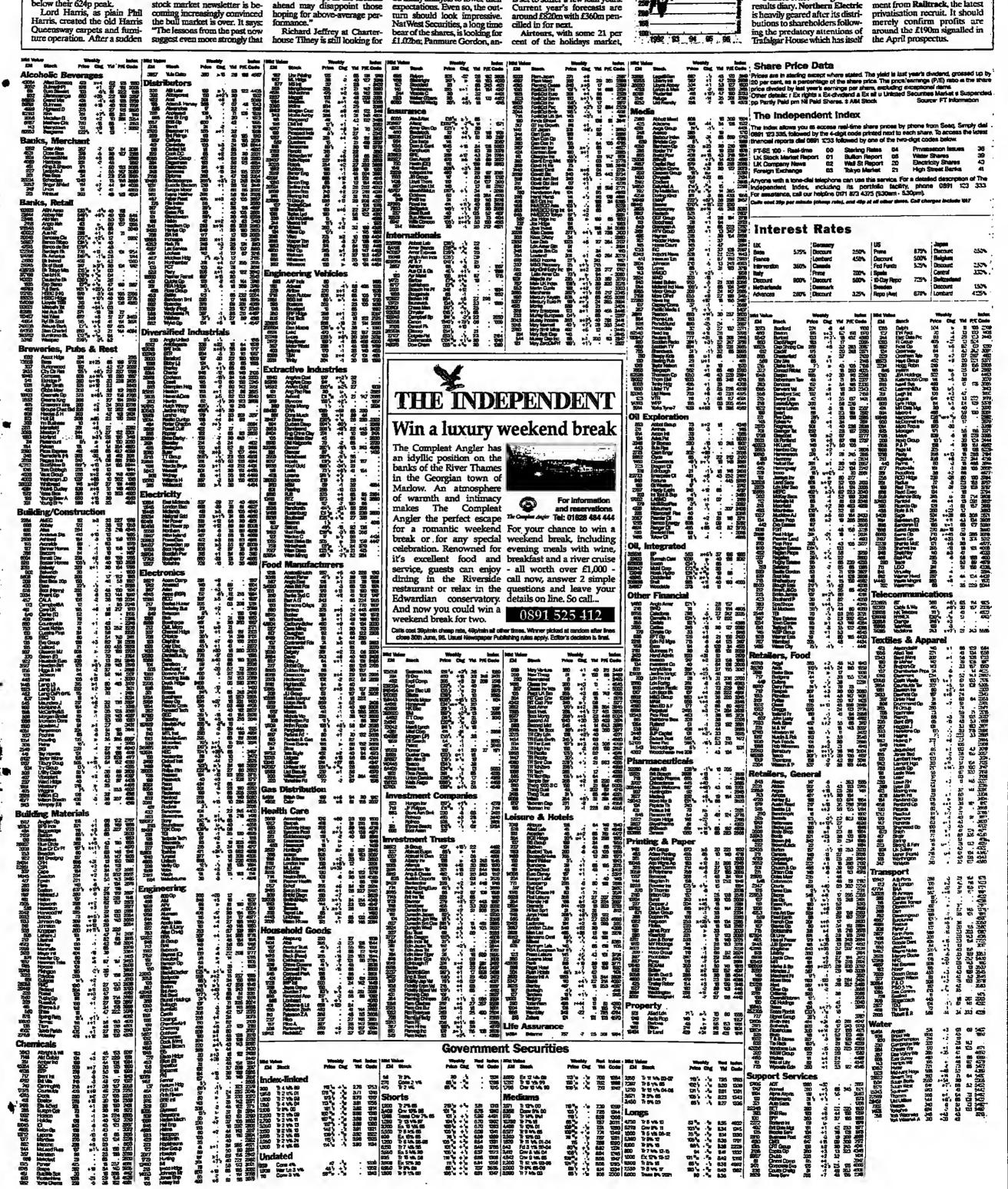
since fallen to a strike, from the Norwegian Kvaemer engineer-

ing group.

Excluding any contribution from the sale of its shares in National Grid, Northern is expected to produce around £130m which would represent a shortfall of about £25m. But, as one expects from a utility, there should be a handsome dividend

increase, from 33p to around 40p. Hyder, the Welsh electricity and water utility, should manage £130m against last year's £120m with dividend generosity extending to 38p against 32 p.
Wessex Water, one of the contenders for South West Water. is likely to produce profits of £134m compared with £117m. Once again a mouthwatering dividend increase is possible - from

13.2p to, perhaps, 16p.
There should also be a statement from Railtrack, the latest merely confirm profits are



BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

Maverick trader's secret book details £13bn copper fraud

JOHN WILLCOCK

The rogue copper trader who cost Japan's Simitomo Corporation £1.2bn may have carried copper trader who cost Japan's Simitomo Corporation £1.2bn may have carried 1991 to irregularities in copper our unauthorised trades in the metal of up to a staggering two trillion ven (£13hn la year. Sumitomo's president, Tomi-

ichi Akiyama, told the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun that the trader Yasuo Hamanaka kept track of his unauthorised deals over 10 years in a secret under-the-counter book that only he knew about.

Authorities in Japan, Britain and the United States are set to widen their investigations this week into how the scandal went unnoticed for 10 years, while world copper traders are braced for a hectic ride as markets reopen today.

The market's main uncertainty is how Sumitomo, the world's biggest copper trader, plans to extricate itself from the long positions Mr Hamanaka has locked the company into. In the UK the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has said it is widening its investigation to cover anyone connected with the fraud.

Earlier this year the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the City regulator, conducted an broking firm which has made huge returns from the husiness. Winchester's two largest shareholders, Ashley Levitt and Charlie Vincent, are now based in Monaco.

al Exchange is expected to in-1991 to irregularities in copper trading by Hamanaka, The rogue trader asked a metals broker in October 1991 to confirm details of his trades, some of which were fictitious. The broker, David Threlkeld, declined and brought the request

1991." Mr Threlkeld told journalists on Saturday.

Agencies in the United States, Britain and Japan are urgently trying to discover whether Tokyo's "Mister Five Per Cent" was a one-off maverick, or whether they have stumbled on a plot to rig the price of the world's flagship

to the attention of the LME.

The LME was aware of this in

industrial metal. If accomplices in any unlawful activity are found, vowed David King, chief executive of the London Metal Exchange (LME), "we will hang them high and publicly".

The main traders in the copper market expect further wild fluctuations in the metal's price as Sumitomo sorts out its po-sitions. Mr King commented yesterday: "I am confident that the situation can be resolved in investigation into Winchester a satisfactory manner without Commodities, a UK copper causing disruption in the marketplace."

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), London's senior market regulator, has heen supervising the SFA's in-

Pressure on the London Met- vestigations into the cooper market. The SIB has also been investigating the trade in cop-per in liaison with the US Commodities Futures Trading Commissioo (CFTC).

Enquiries may be redoubled into the scandal that hit Chile's state copper giant Codelco in 1995 when it lost \$170m on unauthorised LME trading. Its top dealer has denied frand

charges.
Mr Akiyama, referring to
Hamanaka's secret book, said
it recorded trades which were about twice the amount a year shown in official paperwork Mr Hamanaka processed for

Mr Akiyama said Sumitomo

only learned of what was going on when Hamanaka confessed on 5 June to his rogue trading and showed company officials the secret book. Mr Akiyama said the trader was able to get away with his unauthorised dealings for so long because papers from banks he used in his trading transactions, which should have been sent to the company's financial depart-ment, were instead sent directly to Mr Hamanaka.

The company was only fully alerted to Mr Hamanaka's activities when bank documents meant for the trader were mistakenly sent to the company's financial department, the



Recommended reading: Tomlichi Akiyama, president of Sumitomo, sald Hamanaka (above) was vital to preserving the busi-documented in his book twice the number of transactions recorded in the official paperwork nesses. We have now been able

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Red or Dead and Sock Shop find buyers

JOHN WILLCOCK and NIC CICUTTI

Sock Shop, Red or Dead and Contessa, three subsidiaries to the failed Facia stores group. have been sold by receivers. helping to save more than 1,000 jobs.

The sales, announced yesterday, follow a separate purchase by Carlton International the luggage manufacturer, of hranches of Salishury's, another part of Facia's former mpire.
About 75 outlets in the Sock

Shop chain, employing 500 staff, are being sold for a "substantial" but undisclosed sum to Jumper, a UK retail chain based in Carnforth, Lancashire. About a dozen shops were not included in the sale.

Red or Dead, one of the UK's more. leading fashion chains, has been Gran sold back to its founders and former owners. Wayne and Ger-ardine Hemmingway, preserv-ing more than 100 jobs.

Contessa, the UK's largest specialist lingerie retailer, is being acquired by Chancerealm Group, owned by Theo Phaphitis. The deal safeguards some 400 jobs in 80 of the 120 outlets being sold.

Fifteen months ago Mr Phaphitis bought the Ryman stationery chain from KPMG, which was acting as receivers to the failed Pentos Group.

Tony Thompson, of accountants KPMG, lead receiver to Facia, said: "We have kept the stores open in the belief that this

to sell the bulk of the Facia stores in receivership and thereby save nearly 1,1till jobs.

We only finished the negotiations late on Saturday evening after a long day of talks. We are very pleased to have saved so many jobs and preserve such well-known High Street names.

Fellow receivers Grant Thornton said on Saturday that Carlton International had bought 52 branches of the Salisbury's handbag, costume jewellery and suitease chain for an undisclosed sum.

RPMG said that the pur

chase - a week after Swiss-based Mister Minit snapped up 39 stores - brought the total number of Salisbury shops sold to 91, with Grant Thornton still seeking buyers for around 80

Grant Thornton said it understood that Carlton International intended to keep all 300 staff in the shops concerned, along with the Salisbury's name. Grant Thornton partner Maurice Withall said: We still

have a number of offers of in-terest in the remaining stores and we will be entering into discussions with the interested parties next week."

Mr Thompson added that KPMG expected to sell Oakland, the men's fashionwear chain, by the middle of this week and also hoped to find a buyer for Torq, the jewellery husiness.
"We have now said the bulk

of the Facia Group retail outlets and it appears likely that secured creditors will be paid in

Hollick opens up heart of the 'Express'

MATHEW HORSMAN

Lord Hollick, chief executive of earlier this month. United News & Media has on the eighth floor of United's ories about security and Blackfriars headquarters, confidentiality. Some compaalthough the Labour peer has kept a private office for material in safe in the chief ex-

The new layout is aimed at have a more open environcreating what one insider calls an "open and accessible environment" at United, reminiscent of the offices of the old MAI, Lord Hollick's media and financial services company, which earlier this year merged with United.

Significantly, Lord Stevens, United's chairman, remains in his palatial office on the ninth floor, fuelling speculation that the Tory peer is no longer calling the shots at United, owners of the Express titles, friction between various layers regional newspapers and a

conference division. The new arrangements strike some insiders as the confirmation of Lord Hollick's growing power at United, and the increasing isolation of the Lord Stevens, who ran the

newspaper group for 15 years. Within the management area, which takes up half the eighth floor, executives are free to roam, and have access to all areas save the private offices of Lord Hollick and his senior staff. However, there is what one insider calls a "ring of steel" around the open area, as a way of securing confidential documents.

It was within this space that United's highly secretive plans to hid for the television rights to the Premier League were finalised. The project, which included a proposal to offer a range of digital television

services, has now been shelved, following the deal reached hetween the league and BSkyB

Says a senior United executive: "There are really two thenies just lock all confidential ecutive's office. We prefer to ment, at least for the senior

Beyond its significance as an indication of relations between the two peers, the open-plan concept is at the heart of a raging debate in management consultancy circles about corporate efficiency. According to one school, much influenced by US experience, the open plan encourages more communication, a flatter, more efficient of management. Other experts argue, however, that executives need private space in order to

concentrate. One US advertising agency has no private offices at all -nor even any desks. Staff are equipped with lightweight portable phones, and can make use of couches and tables

spread out in the open space.

Media companies in the UK
are more likely than most to have an open-plan environment - influenced, perhaps, by the layout of most newspapers, where only the very senior staff have private offices. Cap-ital Radio, which is moving from its cramped headquarters in Euston Road to Leceister Square, is considering using an open-plan system, at least for most managers. But Chrysalis, for instance, which owns radio station Heart 102, has stuck with the traditional layout.

Insurers demand controls on long-term care sales

NIC CICUTTI

Insurers preparing for a £10bn boom in sales of long-term care policies to the elderly are set to confound the Government by opposing its plans not to impose tight regulation on

the mdustry.
Despite claims by Stephen
Dorrell, the Health Minister, that controls would "inhibit innovation and the development of new products". insurers said the Financial Services Act.

The Association of British Insurers, which had previously op-posed tougher regulation, is due to issue its own proposals this A spokesman said yester-day: "We have decided that the

sale of such products should be controlled under the FSA." David Robinson, head of sales and marketing at Scottish Provident, said: "We helieve

strongly that the public must be reassured that legislation gov-

heen thought out thoroughly before it is introduced." He added that selling of such plans should be regulated by the Personal Investment Anthority, the financial watchdog.

Legal & General and Pru-

dential, two of Britain's leading insurers, also said they were in favour of effective regulation of the market.

leading insurer, said last sonal pension. month that the market for yesterday they wanted long- erning any form of partnership long-term care products could merits of private cover follows term care to be be described by they wanted long- erning any form of partnership long-term care products could merits of private cover follows term care to be be morth up to £10hn a year. Government and insurers has Sales of home-income plans, elderly people and their chil-

ings executive to escape censure

where homeowners surrender dren that they are being forced part of the equity in their to sell off their only assets to part of the equity in their home in return for a guaranteed income in old age, could be worth up to £100bn, some estimates suggest.
The insurers initiative in

calling for tough regulation is aimed at preventing a repeat of the pensions scandal, in which ne market.

1.5 million people were wrongly advised to buy a per-

league said yesterday: "It might be better for Barings if he left," adding that the bank wanted to

put the whole Leeson episode

Mr Tuckey, who now works as a consultant to ING Barings,

Mr Peyrelavade has been

Credit Lyonnais bought the

owns a substantial fund man-

agement business. But it lacks

clout in corporate finance, and

Mr Peyrelavade believes Mr

behind it.

fund the costs of care. Last month, Mr Dorrell is-

sued a consultation paper, in which the Department of policyholder, local authorities will disregard £1.50 of assets and competition. when means-testing elderly people for long-term care.

thority when means-testing in- at vulnerable people, who may dividuals, a one-off premium be frightened into taking out of £7,000 might allow a person the wrong plan.

to protect a house worth £60,000 from having to be sold before the council has to help ont.

However, the Government said last month that it felt Health proposes that for each there was little need to regulate £1-worth of cover bought by a the new industry because this was likely to stifle innovation

Consumer groups have argued that without controls on When added to the £10,000 how they are sold, long-term

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PORMANDA

Barings boss offered new job

JOHN WILLCOCK

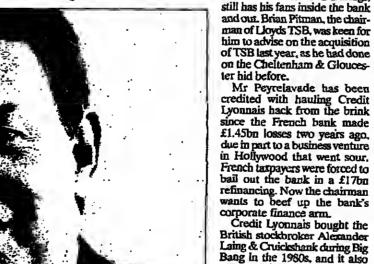
Andrew Tuckey, deputy chairman of Barings when it crashed last year, is being asked to head up the investment hanking arm of Credit Lyonnais.

Jean Peyrelavade, chairman of the French bank and a close

friend of Tuckey, is keen to hire gard the move if he did. Mr hanned from taking another the corporate financier to spear-Tuckey was the only senior Bar-job in the City. One former colthe corporate financier to spear-head Credit Lyonnais Capital Markets's expansion in London.
It is unclear whether Tuckey collapsed with £830m losses

not available for comment yesterday - and it is also unclear

is willing to take the job - he was due to Nick Leeson's unauthorised trading.
He is also the only top Barhow his banking peers would re-ings executive who has not been



New horizons: Andrew Tuckey, the only senior Barings executive at the time of the collapse

IN BRIEF

• Water consumers are effectively being taxed by over-investment in quality improvements ordered by the water watchdog, the institute of Economic Affairs and London Business School claim today in in their annual review of utilities regulation. The IEA also said that the pursuit of "social objectives" by Oftel was superfluous and counter-productive, while there was a danger that gains from privatisation could be eroded in the electricity industry by "re-politicisation" of the sector.

Failure rates among franchise firms could be as high as 64 per cent over a decade, according to a study by the Small Business Research Trust out today. Despite claims of failure rates of 20 per cent, the survey found that of 1,568 firms which advertised franchise opportunities from 1984 onwards, just 36 per cent were still in business by the end of 1995. Failure rates ranged between 25 per cent for healthcare and 57 per cent for hotel and catering.

 Almost seven small business owners out of 10 (69 per cent)
 wish they could work fewer hours, while 63 per cent are worried about the lack of time they spent with their families, according to a survey of 1,000 husiness owners by NOP, the researcher firm. Self-employed entrepreneurs worked an average of 58 hours, and one third hoped to become millionaires. Despite saying that they had little time to enjoy the fruits of their labours, six out of 10 respondents are not prepared to take a drop in income to work shorter hours, NOP found

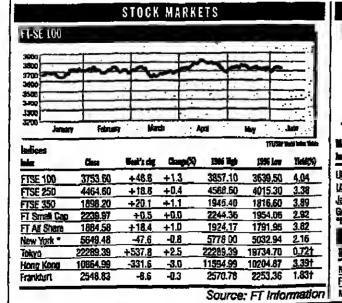
• UK track production is set to dip this year and fall further in 1997 and 1998, according to a world-truck industry forecast from financial information company DRI/McGraw Hill. Sales of UK trucks above six tonnes are also set to fall from 1996/98 before rising again by the year 2001. UK truck production figure for 1995 was 24,700. But this figure will fall back to 23,900 in 1996: 22,700 in 1997; and 21,600 in 1998 before rising slightly to 23,100 in 2001, reflecting the state of the UK economy. reflecting the state of the UK economy,

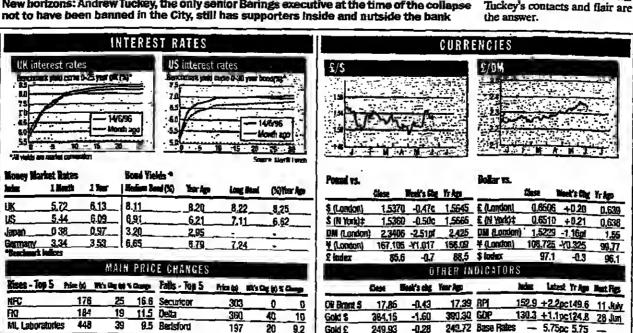
 Managers' pay has leapt ahead of inflation over the past three months with average rises of 4 per cent, according to a report by pay analysis Incomes Data Services out today. A survey of 175 deals in private companies showed that average increases jumped from 3.5 per cent a year ago to 4 per cent, well ahead of the inflation rate. Fewer than one in 10 times gave managers rises at or below the inflatioo rate.

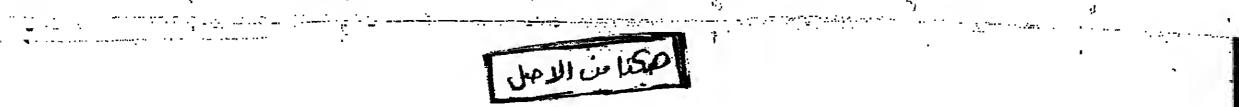
 Only 8 per cent of office staff work from home more than once a week, and fewer than one in five wants to operate from home on a regular basis, a survey by international property consultants Healey & Baker says today. The survey of 650 office workers shows that the number of home-workers has not increased much over the last few years.

 The UK's labour costs have continued to full even though Europe's competitiveness in the world labour market is in decline. a new report shows today. Social security and other mandatory benefits are up to three times higher in Europe than in the US. Japan and South East Asia, a survey by employee benefit consultants Sedgwick Noble Lowndes says today. But the UK is now the EU's second most competitive country behind Portugal, compared with sixth in 1993, following reductions in pay and benefit costs adjusted to the cost of living.

 Revival in the commercial property market, with firms genting up for n pick-up in the pace of economic activity, was detected today by a report from the Confederation of British Industry and international property advisers Grimley. A total of 28 per cent of companies expected to increase their property holdings over the next six months while 25 per cent anticipated a reduction.

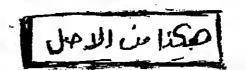






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Contract Trimble



Capital reasons for extra public investment



GAVYN DAVIES

Two percentage points of GDP is a huge amount, requiring large offsetting cuts in current spending, but we would be much better off after a decade if

The Government published a rather odd I paper last week on the state of capital investment in the British economy. Odd not because of its subject matter, but because it was published by Michael Heseltine, deputy prime minister and the Government's PR supremo, rather than by the Treasury or industry department. Odder still because it was not a work of propaganda, but a cross between a newspaper column and the lecture notes of a third-year undergraduate in economics. But however unorthodox the paper, it did make a political point - that the UK's estment performance was much stronger

than it is usually pointed by the Opposition.
The paper makes some perfectly justifiable points about Britain's recent investment performance. For example, although the recovery in investment in the current economic upswing has been extremely anaemic by past standards, this is partly because capital spending fell by less than usual in the recession. And the share of business investment in GDP is not too bad by international standards.

Nevertheless, as this column discussed in detail a fortnight ago, I still favour the common sense proposition that additional capital spending is good for the economy, and disbelieve the claim made by some economics that invertee the claim to the sense economics that invertee the sense economics are sense economics. mists that investment is either irrelevant for growth, or otherwise unimportant for gov-ernment policy. This is not a mistake made by the Heseltine paper, but it is made by many

others - for example by Bill Martin of UBS who wrote in the letters column of this newspaper that my comments a fortnight ago failed to understand" his arguments on the subject. Possibly my grasp of his ocuvre is less than perfect, but if so I am in good company, including that of the deputy prime min-ister, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, the shadow chancellor, and the US Treasury department, to name but a recent

sample of the great unwashed in this respect.

I shall not repeat all the reasons given last time for believing that a high investment propensity is likely to be good for an economy. But at the risk of giving this matter more attention than it deserves, I feel I must comment on Martin's claim that empirical studies have definitively established the absence of a connection between investment and of a connection between investment and growth. The truth is that pienty of cross-country studies have shown that higher investment is indeed associated with higher output growth in samples which include the experience of emerging countries as well as the old industrialised OECD nations. But I will concede that if we exclude the emerging markets, then the correlation does not seem to have been established for the developed economies alone.

Can we therefore conclude that extra investment is irrelevant for growth in old countries like the UK? No we cannot. Brad de Long, one of the American economists who believe that investment is crucial to the

a serious bias to the analysis. Essentially, it is because this misses out the very cases which are most instructive - ie the emerging Asian countries where investment and growth has been exceptionally high, and the Latin American economies, where both have been low. As De Long concludes: "I can prove that all swans are white — if you let me throw the black ones out of the sample. It makes as little sense to analyse growth by looking only at the OECD as to analyse unemployment by looking only at people with jobs." Quite.

The Heseltine paper, which gives a bal-anced account of the evidence on this topic, reckons that a one percentage point increase in the investment share of GDP increases the long-run growth rate by 0.1 per cent per annum. It follows that if we can increase the investment share by two percentage points for a decade, an ambitious goal, then by the end of that period we will have created an extra 2 per cent of GDP, worth around £15bn in today's money, each year from then onwards. The point is that even a small effect on the growth rate for a decade quickly cumulates into a huge ben-

Tarmac, until they sold it to

English Partnerships in a deal

growth process, wrote a letter to the Sunday of investment in a free market system. If Telegraph on 19 May explaining why stripping out the non OECD countries introduces still argue that it would be desirable to increase public investment in infrastructure and human capital (ie investment) by a very large amount. Two percentage points of GDP is

a huge amount indeed, requiring large offsetting cuts in the current spending of the state to find the necessary finance. But I have little doubt we would be much better off after a decade if this were done.

ter a decade if this were done.

Enthusiasm for a greater quantity of investment does not, however, imply that the quality of investment, and the way that we use the existing capital stock, is unimportant. In fact, if anything, these matters are even more important than simply boosting the overall total of investment, as the Heseltine paper correctly implies.

paper correctly implies.

A fascinating study published last week by
the McKinsey Global Institute in Washington makes this point more powerfully than almost any work previously published. McKinsey looks at the quantity of savings and investment in the US, Japan and Germany, and also at the returns which each of these economies generate on their capital stock. As is well known, Japan and Germany save and invest much more of their GDP than the US - 31 per cent and 36 per cent in the past two decades, compared with 25 per cent in America. But the returns generated on this investment are exactly the other way around -9.1 per cent per annum in real terms in the US, compared with about 7 per cent in both Japan and Germany. The result is the US economy needs to save and invest less than

business

its main competitors in order to generate the same living standards and long-term growth.

McKinsey does not say where the UK fits into this picture. But there is one piece of encouraging evidence—the OECD reckons that the UK is the only one of the major economies which has been able to increase the growth rate of its capital productivity since 1979. And this has implications for the debate on the merit of "stakeholder economies", in which the power of the outside capital markets is reduced relative to the so-called internal market of managers and labour representatives. (Nate: I am referring here to the Will Hutton version of stakeholding, rather than to the Tony Blair version.)

Japan and Germany are two prime examples of stakeholding systems, while the US is the prime example of the opposite. The irony is that by getting rid of the "short-termism" of the financial markets, the stakeholder economies may create conditions in which firms are willing to invest more. But by reducing the disciplinary threat from the capital markets, they appear to allow man-agers in use that investment far less efficiently, agers in use that investment far less einciently, and in get lower returns on it. The challenge of designing a system which will both en-courage a high propensity to invest, and then achieve maximum returns an that investment, has still not been solved.

As the Greenwich millennium plans falter, Hazel Duffy reports on the twins who have had no problems developing private finance in the Midlands

An out-of-town success in the Black Country

As the millennium exhibition private finance package hangs m the balance, the Black Country property developer Don Richardson, who pledged over £5m of his own money to back Birmingham's bid, is sceptical that the exhibition can be staged

at Greenwich according to plan. Sour grapes, because Birmingham's NEC site was rejected? Not really. He sees the merits of Greenwich. But he is highly crit-ical of the way that the whole thing has been organised. The Government has gone for the worst of all worlds. The timescale is too short - contaminated sites like Greenwich, in his experience, have always taken longer and cost

more to clear than budgeted. "It's a fiasco, it goes beyond the . oale," Don'Richardson said. "If had been in charge, there would have been no competition. I would have said that Greenwich is going to have the money and that is it and nobody would have

THE MONDAY INTERVIEW DON AND ROY RICHARDSON

own money into the project. trates the mind wonderfully. You need somebody who can make a quick decision and that has to be a business person. I would have thought it would have been better to give business an opportunity to make a profitable venture of it. That opportunity has been missed by not backing the NEC initially. As it is, a lot of people around here have been offended."

But Mr Richardson said he is not one of them. He is sorry that the exhibition, "if it takes place at all", is likely to be much scaled down.

Don and Roy Richardson,

twin brothers, took off in the mid-Eighties with their development of Merry Hill, in the the Black Country in the west But he also would have put the Midlands, just 100 yards from businessman who was putting his ago. They have moved fairly "We could have been 10 times track, near Fort Dunlop (which perstore and leisure facilities is neurial success led to lunches the lack of facilities. Merry Hill 7 per cent a year since 1979.

Services

smoothly through property booms and busts to become one of the leading provincial developers.

The Merry Hill site had been

a steelworks. The Richardsons cleared it, built small units for industry, financed in part by investors who got advantages of the Enterprise Zone. Then the Richardsons looked again at the planning permission and found that retail was within their remit. The Merry Hill shopping

centre has been so successful that permission is being sought for a fifth phase. The Richardsons themselves sold oot four years ago. With offices and an hotel and thousands of new jobs, Mr Richardson believes he has done something for the area as well as for Richardson Develop-

The Richardsons' company is

ing money, but we could not have done some of the developments that we have. Just the mention of a contaminated site would have sent the share price plummeting. We would never have been able to clear Round Oak steelworks (Merry Hill) if we had had our noses on the share price. It was more than 12 months before there was a glim-

mer of activity on that site." The Richardsons can move quickly as well. At the end of last week they completed acquisition of a site in York. They had been approached on the Monday by ss and were able to complete

This is because we did not have to get the agreement of lenders or major shareholders." The site already has an Asda supermarket plus permission for another 260 square feet of retail without restrictions on the type A month ago, the Richardsons

sold their Fort Retail Park, on the of a former power station) in the of the former Dunlop test

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Shrewd shoppers: Don (left) and Roy Richardson at the Merry Hill centre

they also owned, originally with in discussion with planners. The success of shopping centres away from towns, seemingly linked to the expansion of at the expense of town centres, has

prompted an about-turn by the Jaguar's nearby works). Work Government. John Gummer, Enwas only just beginning on the retail park. The sale price was £90m, to three leading institu-tions. The initial yield is 5.5 per vironment Secretary told planners last vear to favour town centre developments. Sites on the edge of town centres were next best, out cent, which in property terms is hailed as "ground breaking," as of town is a last resort. Mr Richardson puts it.
Across the M6, just before
Spaghetti Junction, the Richard-Mr Richardson can afford to be

sanguine. He and his brother know that the institutions want the sons have a two-thirds interest in sort of developments which can a site that has been dubbed the pick and choose their retailers because they have what the public best (location) and the worst (site wants. The Black Country lads area, where permission for a su-

with Lady Thatcher at No 10, and whose photograph flanking a bearning John Major sits in their office, can take their time. "We had He says he is ashamed when more than 20 institutions approach us on the Fort Retail Park, 20 institutions able to per-form with a multi-million pound

ing to come in.
Whatever the politicians, whatever the planners, do, the customer will vote with his feet, go with his wheels, to where he is going to get the service. Sooner or later, John Gummer will modify his views because this area - had lost their jobs. The one the Black Country is an ideal example - cannot be restricted to

Get on

iob. There's £20bn out there wait-

ought to be twice as hig as it is today, not just because of the pevple buying the goods, but because of the jobs it has brought."

Photograph: News Team

he compares shopping in parts of Britain—and he includes some of the centre of Birmingham with that in the United States. They're Victorian." He recalls the leweller with a £2.750 Rolex watch for sale when Merry Hill

opened, wondered who would buy it, learned the next day that the jeweller had sold three. And this is an area where thousands thing that has gone up, he says.

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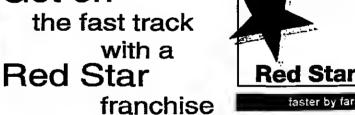
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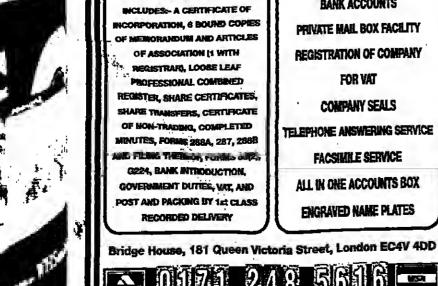
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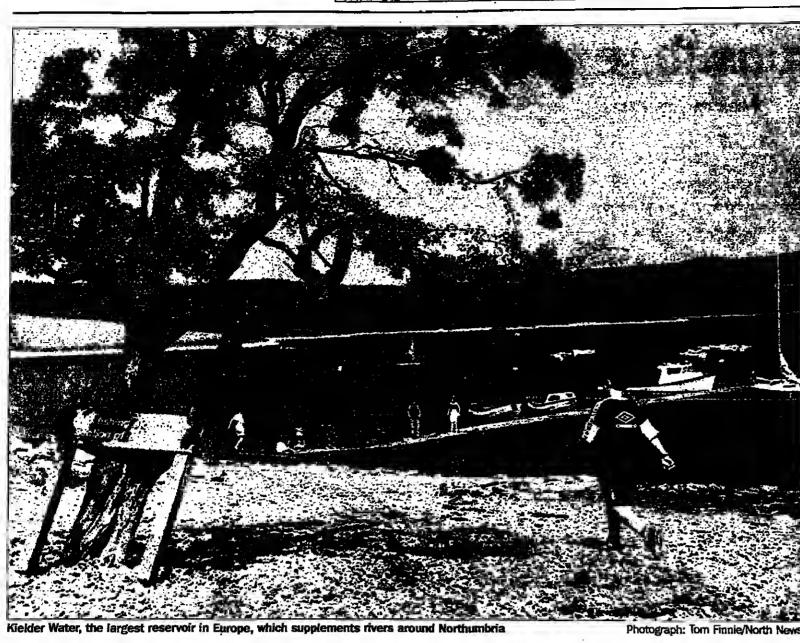
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RECORDED DELIVERY



Many rivers to cross

Using reservoirs to supplement rivers is now a necessity. But what is the environmental impact of water that has travelled in several river systems? Martyn Kelly reports

elephant finally beast of hurden. While their neighbours to the south and west - not to mention most of central and southern England suffered drought orders, the lawns of Northumbria remained lush and green. The reason? Kielder Water, the largest reservoir in Europe, plus a pipeline that enables water from Kielder to be pumped to rivers in the region.

'At the time it was completed it was seen as a white elephant because the industrial expansion of Teesside, whose demand it was built to meet, never materialised." explains Andrew Panting of is fair to say that for the first 1990, it wasn't used a great deal. Since then it has really come into its own, being used more each year than the previous one, to the point at which last year it was playing a vital role in keeping the rivers Tyne, Derwent and Wear topped up. If we hadn't had Kielder Water then, the situation in the North-east would have been potentially worse than that in Yorkshire."

Even at the end of the summer, Kielder Water, with a capacity of 200 billion litres, was still almost 80 per cent full. This

No. 3016. Monday 17 June

ACROSS

Welcome a title, by the

10 Transport collection (7)

12 Preserve name of a tropi-

cal plant (5)
13 Tell public school pupil in

sound of it (7)

craft part (7)

advance (3.2)

it's not clear when it comes

reservoirs of West Yorkshire. Not surprisingly, then, Yorkshire Water spent much of last

summer casting wistful glances ing in tankerloads of water -300 a day at the peak - from Teesside. This year they plan to go one step further by building a permanent pipeline to take water from the River Tees, near Darlington, 13km to the river Wiske, a tributary of the Swale. From there it will flow down the rivers Swale, Ure and Ouse and through another 23km of new pipes to a water treatment centre near York before arriving in

By the time the water arrives in York it will have travelled in three separate river systems: Northumbria Water. "I think it the North Tyne, Tees and Swale-Ouse. Working out exactly what impact this will have on each river is not easy. "There has been remarkably lit-tle written on water transfers," comments Chris Gibbons of the University of Northumbria, who recently completed a PhD on the ecological effects of the Kielder scheme. "There seem to be a lot of hurried proposals for transfers now and next to no pre-impact studies at all."

15 Bullish article inside isn't

17 Ingredients of a tin goue

19 Done after consideration

of turn over (3,2)
22 State from which a victim

on duck for starters (9)

German prince to return

round mid-April (7)

to be altered (9)

originates (5)

11 Fire madly, dispersing land 23 Expression of approval stuforce (5,4) dents hope for? (4,5)

the Yorkshire water mains.

Generalisations about the effect of transfers are difficult. "It all depends upon the differences between the donor system and the receiving system," Gibcompared with only 11 per cent bon explains. His own studies Environment Agency are both

in some of the worst affected showed that the effects of releases of Kielder water on the River Wear were slight because the two rivers are, chemically, very similar. The water quality issues are more related to the North. They spent £27m hring- sorts of changes that occur within the transfer tunnel," he explains. "Quite often water stands for a long period of time in the transfer tunnel and, when it is released, it is relatively low in dissolved oxygen."

Deoxygenated water can be

fatal for fish and other animals in the river, so it is important that weirs, and other means to re-aerate the water are provided before it enters the river. However, Gibbons goes on to explain that these changes were relatively short-lived in the Wear and had disappeared a few hundred metres downstream of the discharge.

Other problems that need to he taken into account are the transfer of new pests and diseases. Zander, an aggressive, alien fish, loathed by coarse fishermen, was able to spread through an earlier scheme that linked rivers in East Anglia. And, in 1989, a chemical spill in the River Tyne was acciden-tally transferred, thanks to the Kielder Scheme, to other rivers and water-treatment works in the region and about 100,000 households were supplied with drinking water that had a distinct odour of TCP.

Yorkshire Water and the

26 French banker's forward

investment in new range

Somehow earn the capital

Loud reprimand is terrible

Good French composer ac-

cepting trainee lyricist (7) Bitter cold but dry outside

Poor writer heads off eager

Some out of work are suf-

Many assigned to writing draft (9)

Like to prohibit one enter-

ng European country (7) Muddle over time signal

14 Hit spine right off, resulting in medical problem (9)
 16 A touch is added to pale

17 We hear callous Cockney is

unaffected (7)
18 Mainly moderate, good
person creates violent agi-

Average charge raised by

business colleague (7) Staff point to service en-

24 Dress up Henry causing laughter (5)

Attack number involved in

fering (5)

feature (9)

iation (7)

trance (7)

brawl (5)

27 Sit about with fellow in ut-

DOWN

ter content (7)

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

transfer water between the Tees and the Wiske (and, cousequently, for the Tees to be sup-plemented by Kielder) are only likely to be used in an emergency. However, the greater distance between the Tyne and Tees will mean that water spends more time in the pipes and will, potentially, be more severely deoxygenated than is the case for discharges to the Wear. Add to this the potential need for larger volumes of water to be transferred and the impact on the otherwise pristine upper reaches of the Tees could be more serious than Gibbons

The next stage of the journey, however, might even have a positive environmental impact Yorkshire Water will abstract high-quality water from the Tees from a stretch just upstream of Darlington and pump it into a river which, an Environmental Agency spokeswoman commented wryly, leaves a lot to be desired in water-quality terms. The net effect might be an overall improvement in chemical terms, due to dilution of river Wiske water by river Tees water. The ability of a small North Yorkshire stream to cope with such an increase in flow is a question that Environment Agency staff will be asking Yorkshire Water to answer

observed on the Wear.

before giving the final go-ahead. A closing irony is that plans to

quick to point out that plans to extend the Kielder transfer scheme to the Swale were first proposed in the Seventies, but were blocked by Parliament on the grounds that the then water anthorities should get their water from within their own regions. Had it gone ahead at the time, many of the changes that Yorkshire Water have had to make in the past few months would already have been in place. It is probably small comfort to York-shire Water to know that it is not the only one to hlame for its cur-

Forget the scare stories. Phthalates are cheap, versatile, recyclable ... and no risk to humans. By John Emsley

agripped by fear that substances called phthalates could be contaminating infant for-mula feeds. The scare was prompted by concerns that these were "gender-bending" chemicals. An earlier phthalate scare of the 1970s accused them of for window frames and draincausing cancer. However, phthalates cause neither cancer nor infertility in humans.

Phthalates are man-made and widespread; even in remote regions of the planet analysts have recorded 0.05 parts alysis have recorded 0.05 parts per million (ppm) in rainwater. Each of us gets a daily dose, and the MAFF surveys Phthalates in Paper & Board Packaging (1995) and Total Diet Survey (1996) found them in almost all food analysed. Levels in milk and milk products were around 1 ppm. products were around 1 ppm. but the suspected source of contamination, PVC tubing used in milking parlours, ac-counts for only a tenth of this. Phthalates were first made in the 1850s and called naphtha-

lates, from naphtha the ancient Greek name for natural petroleum, but this was soon shortened to phthalate. There are two types, which differ slightly from each other in their

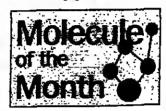
chemical structure. Phthalate polyester was dis-covered by the chemists Rex Whinfield and James Tennant in Manchester in 1941, when they heated together methyl tereph-thalate and ethylene glycol. They called their new polymer fibre Terylene and found it ideal for blending with other fibres to make crease-resistant suits, or, as Crimplene, uncrushable blous-es and dresses. Today we are more likely to encounter poly-ester as PET (polyethylene terephthalate), which is what most fizzy drinks bottles are made of. These are generally regarded as environmentally friendly because they save energy

and can be recycled.

A PET bottle needs a quarter less energy to make than a glass bottle and a delivery truck can carry 60 per cent more drink and 80 per cent less pack-aging when loaded with PET-bottled drinks. In Germany and Austria PET bottles are re-turned for refilling, while in the US more than 30 per cent are recycled into other products such as carpets, anoraks, duvets and paint brushes. In 1995 in the UK 1,000 tons of PET bottles

New suits for old bottles

The phthalate in polyester is permanently fixed as an integral part of the polymer. The other type has a different use - as a molecular lubricant. It is blended into plastics to make them pliable. PVC is a rigid solid used pipes, but when phthalate is added it becomes flexible because this allows the polymer chains to move over one another. So we get PVC as garden hoses, wallpapers, shower cur-



tains, clothes, blood bags and water beds. Electric cable and vinyl flooring account for most

Polyester phthalate does not escape to the environment. Plasticiser phthalates do, and Plasticiser phthalates do, and are among the most investigated of all chemicals. The leading plasticiser is DEHR, short for di(ethylbexyl) phthalate, which, according to Dr David Cadogan of the EC Council for Plasticians. cisers and Intermediates, pos-

t the beginning of this were collected to become fibre es little risk: "As far as humans month, Britain was insulation and yard, es little risk: "As far as humans are concerned it causes neither cancer nor reproductive elfects. Nor do phthalates accumulate in the environment: they are bindegradable, and levels are falling. I cakage from plastics in old landfill sites is

In 1900 the EU Commission said DEHP should not be classified as a careinogen, because no carcinogenic or oestrogenic activity was found with fish, hamsters, guinea-pigs, dogs or monkeys. Rats did show increased risks of liver tumours and decreased testes, but they are known to be particularly prone to these conditions.

Humans are not at risk. The Danish Institute of Toxicology concluded that an intake of 500mg a day was without effect. Our average daily intake is around 0.35mg. For babies, the tolerable daily intake is tuto milligrams per kilogram body weight, but MAFF admits some feeds have 0.13 mg per kg. However, it points out that the 0.05 guideline has a large inbuilt safety factor and in any case is based on the tests on rats. The danger to human bables is neg-ligible.

Dr John Emsley is science writer in residence at Imperial College,



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